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Tom Rogic

Aziz Behic

Eli Babalj

MAIN PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

The Match Details

Korea Republic v Qantas Socceroos
Wednesday 14 November 2012
Hwaseong Stadium, Hwaseong,
Korea Republic
Kick-off: 7.00pm local (9:00pm AEDT)

Current FIFA World Rankings:
Korea Republic – 25th
Australia – 34th

SOCCEROOS vs KOREA REPUBLIC
P24: W9 - D9 - L6

Last Time They Met:
AFC Asian Cup
Qatar 2011 – Group Stage
Australia 1 (Mile Jedinak 62')
Korea Republic 1 (Ja Cheol Koo 24')
14 January 2011 - Crowd: 15,526

Osieck Selects New Blood

SOCCEROO HEART-STARTER!

Qantas Socceroos Head Coach Holger Osieck has named a 19-player squad for the upcoming international friendly match against the Korea Republic at the Hwaseong Stadium, Hwaseong in the Korea Republic on Wednesday 14 November 2012 (kick-off 7:00pm local, 9:00pm AEDT).

Receiving their first call up to the Qantas Socceroos squad are Hyundai A-League players Tom Rogic (Central Coast Mariners) and Aziz Behich (Melbourne Heart) along with overseas-based player Eli Babalj (FK Crvena Zvezda Beograd, Serbia).

Returning to the Qantas Socceroos squad after varying times of absence are Mathew Leckie (FSV Frankfurt 1899, Germany), Mathew Ryan (Central Coast Mariners) and Michael Thwaite (Perth Glory).

Should he take the field against the Korea Republic, Carl Valeri will make his 50th A-International appearance for the Qantas Socceroos.

This will be the 25th match between the Korea Republic and Australia at senior men's international level after the teams last met at the Al Gharafa Stadium in Doha, Qatar in the group phase of the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2011 where they played out an enthralling 1-all draw.

The Qantas Socceroos are currently ranked 34th in the FIFA World Rankings whilst the Korea Republic are currently 25th (as of 3 October 2012).

The Qantas Socceroos are currently in second position of Group B with a win against Iraq (2-1), draws against Oman (0-0) and Japan (1-1) and a loss to Jordan (1-2) at the half way point of the final round of the 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers.

The Korea Republic are at the top of Group A with wins against Qatar (4-1) and Lebanon (3-0), a draw against Uzbekistan (2-2) and a loss to Iran (0-1).

The match will be broadcast Live & Exclusive on FOX SPORTS.

Socceroo Squad

Club, Caps, Goals

Eli BABALJ	
FK Crvena Zvezda Beograd, Serbia	-
Aziz BEHICH	
Melbourne Heart	-
Alex BROSQUE	
Al-Ain Club, UAE 18 (5)	
James HOLLAND	
FK Austria Vienna, Austria	7 (0)
Mathew LECKIE	
FSV Frankfurt 1899, Germany	-
Ryan McGOWAN	
Heart of Midlothian FC, Scotland	1 (0)
Matthew McKAY	
Busan I Park, Korea Republic	29 (1)
Lucas NEILL	
Al-Wasl Sports Club, UAE	87 (0)
Tommy OAR	
FC Utrecht, Netherlands	5 (0)
Tom ROGIC	
Central Coast Mariners	-
Nikita RUKAVYTSYA	
FSV Mainz 05, Germany	9 (0)
Mathew RYAN	
Central Coast Mariners	-
Adam SAROTA	
FC Utrecht, Netherlands	3 (0)
Mark SCHWARZER	
Fulham FC, England	102 (0)
Matthew SPIRANOVIC	
Al Arabi, Qatar	16 (0)
Archie THOMPSON	
Melbourne Victory FC	41 (24)
Michael THWAITE	
Perth Glory FC	6 (0)
Carl VALERI	
U.S. Sassuolo Calcio, Italy	49 (1)
Luke WILKSHIRE	
FK Dinamo Moscow, Russia	73 (7)

This Week's Line Up

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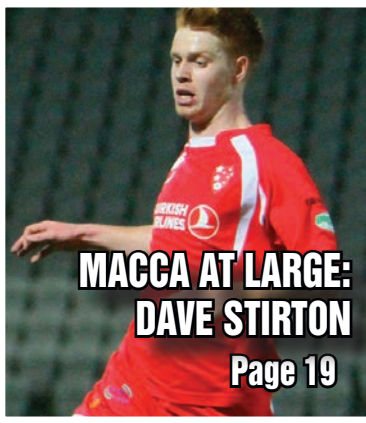

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VICTORIA'S LEADER IN TEAM WEAR

Young Guns Impress

The Qantas Young Socceroos have drawn 1-1 with Syria in their second match of the AFC U-19 Championship in the UAE.

The Syrians were the first to apply the pressure and for the first 15 minutes the Qantas Young Socceroos had to defend well to avoid conceding early on in the piece.

From the quarter hour onwards, the Qantas Young Socceroos started to settle into the match and shared possession with Syrian for the remainder of the half.

The Qantas Young Socceroos best chance of first half came in the 35th minute when Terry Antonis played a great ball to Corey Gameiro, whose shot forced a top save out of the Syrian goalkeeper, Shaher ALSHAKIR.

The second half saw the Qantas Young Socceroos start the better of the two teams with the creation of a number of goal scoring opportunities and a solid defensive effort.

Although midway through the second half it was Syria who broke the deadlock when Al Mawas received a long pass and then shot past Qantas Young Socceroos goal keeper Paul Izzo who was unable to save.

The Qantas Young Socceroos equalised in the 81st minute after Ryan Williams took on and beat 3 defenders down the right side of the field. Williams then worked his way into the box and cut the ball back to Gameiro, who finished past the keeper to the near post.

Gameiro had a chance to net the winner a minute later after Williams again played him into a goal scoring position but unfortunately Gameiro's shot went wide.

After the match, Qantas Young Socceroos Head Coach Paul Okon was pleased with his team's overall performance.

"We were a bit tentative in the first 10-15 minutes as we knew Syria would come out and attack early which they did. We dealt with it and at the same time we played some good football and started to dominate the game," said Okon

"In the second half we continued to put pressure on them and this was emphasized when we won the ball, we kept it, built up the play to go forward and then created a number of opportunities.

"We conceded a goal from our only mistake in 90 minutes but credit to the players they believed they could get back into the game and did so through a magnificent goal from Corey Gameiro after a great passage of play from Ryan Williams.

"After the game I emphasized to the players that this is just another step towards qualifying for the FIFA U-20 World Cup. The performance tonight was outstanding and we need to continue this in the next match against Saudi Arabia, "concluded Okon.

In the other Group D match, Saudi Arabia defeated Qatar 4-2.

The Qantas Young Socceroos final Group D match of the AFC U-19 Championship will be against Saudi Arabia on Thursday 8 November (kick-off 5:00pm local, 12:00am AEDT).

The top two teams from each group of the AFC U-19 Championship 2012 will progress to the knockout stage (quarter-finals) and the four winners of the quarter-finals will then play in the semi-finals with the winners advancing to the final.

The semi-finalists will also automatically qualify for the FIFA U-20 World Cup which will be held in Turkey in June/July 2013.

Match Details

Syria 1
(Mahmoud Almawas 74')
Qantas Young Socceroos 1 (Corey Gameiro 81')
Tuesday 6 November 2012
Fujairah Stadium, Al Fujairah City, United Arab Emirates
Referee: Ravshan Irmatov (Uzbekistan)
Assistant Referees: Jakhongir Saidov (Uzbekistan) & Mohammad Hanif Bin Abdul Rahman (Malaysia)
Crowd: 1,200

Syria Line-Up: 3.Mouaiad Alajaan , 5.Hamid Mido (C) (20.Nassouh Nakkdahli 59'), 6.Amro Jeniat , 9.Samer Salem , 10.Mahmoud Almawas , 11.Adnan Al Taki (15.Abdulmannan Ibrahim 71'), 13.Omar Kharbin, 14.Hussein Aljwayed, 17.Muayad Alkhouli, 18.Khaled Almbayed, 22.Shaher Alshakir (Gk).

Substitutes Not Used: 1.Abdul Nassan (Gk), 2.Malek Alkadi , 4.Omro Al Midani , 7.Amad Alkaddour, 8. Shih Yosef , 12.Amer Haj Hashim, , 16.Abd Al Elah Hfean, 19.Ehab Alhessni , 21.Mahmood Albaher, 23.Ibrahim Alhamwi (Gk)

Yellow Cards: Mouaiad Alajaan 23', Samer Salem 61', Nassouh Nakkdahli 90+3'

Qantas Young Socceroos Line-Up: 1.Paul Izzo (Gk), 2. Joshua Brillante 3.Connor ChApman 4.Curtis Good (C) (22.David Vrankovic 46'), 6.Reece Caira 7.Corey Gameiro 8.Terry Antonis (11. Ryan Edwards 78'), 9. Adam Taggart (10. Jamie Maclaren 78'), 14.Ryan Williams 15.Jason Geria 16.Jackson Irvine

Substitutes Not Used: 5.Corey Brown 12.Liam Jacob (Gk) 13.Tom King 17.Hayden Morton 18.Jack Duncan (Gk) 19.Benjamin Garuccio 20.Mustafa Amini 21.Mitchell Oxborrow 23.Travis Cooper

Yellow Cards: Nil

All Nations Cup Prepares for 27th Year

The 27th All Nations Football Cup, one of Victoria's best multi-cultural sporting events, commences on Saturday 10th November with 16 teams competing over six weeks trying to reach the Final on 16th December competing for $5,000 in prize money.

Due to renovation work on the main pitch at Knox City's home ground, Egan Lee Reserve, the tournament will this year be held at the Knox Regional Football Centre near the corner of Eastlink and High Street Road off George Street.

The competition is organised along World Cup lines and recognises that the game of football is played in 208 countries around the world who are affiliated to FIFA the world governing body, many of whom have communities in Victoria.

The draw was held at the Knox City FC Clubrooms last Thursday evening. The teams being drawn into four groups of four with teams playing in a round-robin format as follows:-

Group 1 – Scotland, Romania, Chile and Peru
Group 2 – Australia, Bosnia Italy and Cyprus
Group 3 – Albania, Somalia, Seychelles and Mauritius
Group 3 – Ireland, Serbia, Portugal and France

After the round-robin group stage, the top two teams in each group will progress to the knockout Quarter Finals with games being played on both Saturdays and Sundays up to and including the Quarter-final stage. The Semi-finals and Final will be played on Sunday 9th and Sunday 16th December respectfully.

Last year Scotland were the winners with the Runner-up being Australia. Stan Webster coached Scotland last year which included players from the Victorian Premier League and it looks like the standard will be similar this year.

Fixtures for the first weekend are as follows –
Saturday 10th November
11.30am -Scotland v Romania; 1pm-Albania v Somalia; 2.30pm - Chile v Peru;4pm- Seychelles v Mauritius
Sunday 11th November 11.30am- Australia v Bosnia; 1pm – Ireland v Serbia 2.30 Italy v Cyprus; 4pm - Portugal v France

In addition to this tournament Knox City will also be running trials for Junior players at Egan Lee Reserve on the training pitches. These trials will be held on both Thursday November 15th and 22nd at 6.30pm for all players from Under 12 to Under 16. Trials for Under 18 players will be held later at a time to be determined.

Details of the tournament and trials can be seen on Knox City's website www.knoxcityfc.com.au

Bravehearts: All Nations victors Scotland with last year's trophy. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

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Craig Goodwin named Young Footballer of the Year nominee

Hunter Ports Newcastle Jets player Craig Goodwin has been announced as the first nominee for the 2012/13 NAB Young Footballer of the Year Award.

Goodwin was voted as the most outstanding U21 player for the month of October following standout performances in four matches.

Goodwin was a standout for the Jets in the opening four rounds of the season, which saw the Club, win three of their first four matches.

Playing on the left side of the midfield, Goodwin proved to be a constant attacking threat for the Jets and terrorised opposition defences.

His standout performance came in front of 35,000 spectators at Allianz Stadium when the Jets faced Sydney FC in Round 2.

The 20-year-old stole some of the limelight from marquee stars Emile Heskey and Alessandro Del Piero with an eye-catching performance that saw him score the Jets' third goal in their 3-2 win.

"I wasn't really expecting to be nominated to be honest," Goodwin said.

"I've been reasonably happy with the way I've started the season and I've had a couple of good performances.

"I've just got to keep that high standard going now and continue to perform well."

Goodwin said receiving the NAB Young Footballer of the Year nomination somewhat justified his decision to move to the Jets.

"One of the main reasons why I moved to Newcastle was to get more game time and I've managed to get it this season and maintain my spot in the side," he said.

"Hopefully that can keep going over the course of the season."

Craig Goodwin is the first nominee for the annual award and will be joined by five other nominees to be in the running for the grand prize.

The overall winner will receive a $10,000 personal investment portfolio, a NAB Private Client Manager to assist with a range of banking and financial services, and the NAB Young Footballer of the Year Award.

To aid the development of future football stars NAB have generously donated a $3,000 equipment pack that will go to Craig's chosen junior football institution, Munno Para City Soccer Club in his hometown of Adelaide.

SFC And Victory Unite To Battle Depression And Anxiety

Sydney FC and Melbourne Victory will once again unite to help raise awareness about depression and anxiety by turning Saturday night's Big Blue clash at Allianz Stadium into a battle for the beyondblue Cup.

Sydney FC is proud to have beyondblue as a Community Partner and for the second successive season the A-League's biggest interstate rivalry will be the backdrop for the beyondblue Cup.

This season Sydney FC are joining the beyondblue team in its fight to give stigma the boot by 'liking' beyondblue on Facebook and help build a team of 1 million, which is the number of people in Australia who have depression at any one time.

With a crowd of 25,000 expected at Allianz Stadium on Saturday night, many of whom are male, the match is the ideal stage to encourage men and especially footballers at all levels of the game to keep an eye out for their team-mates.

Many men battle depression and anxiety alone because the stigma around mental health problems means they are reluctant or embarrassed to take action to recover, according to beyondblue CEO Kate Carnell AO.

"Depression and anxiety can affect the toughest people," Carnell said. "Taking the first step can be difficult but there's nothing weak about regaining control of your life. There is a lot you can do to fight depression and anxiety and recover."

Sydney FC Chief Executive Officer Tony Pignata urged all Sydney FC fans to get behind the work done by beyondblue and support the cause by turning out at Allianz Stadium on Saturday night dressed in blue.

"Sydney FC is proud to be associated with beyondblue and we are asking all of our fans coming to Allianz Stadium on Saturday night for the clash with Melbourne Victory to come dressed in blue, Sky Blue of course," Pignata said.

Members of the Sydney FC squad will help launch the beyondblue Cup by wearing blue wigs during this morning's training session as the Sky Blues start preparations for Saturday night's blockbuster clash with Melbourne Victory.

If you or someone you know wants to take back control of your life, call the beyondblue info line on 1300 224 636 or visit beyondblue-men.org.au. Both are 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Victory Women Bolstered By European Signings

Melbourne Victory Women will be boosted this weekend following the signing of two European players; Welsh Captain Jessica Fishlock and Swede Petra Larsson.

Fishlock, a 25 year old midfielder, is of the highest pedigree having played 59 times for the Welsh National Team and is the reigning FA Women's Super League Player of the Season; England's top women's division.

Coming directly from Bristol Academy, the goal scoring midfielder has also spent time at Dutch club AZ Alkmaar where she won two Eredivisie titles.

Joining Melbourne Victory as a guest player, Fishlock will fly into Melbourne tomorrow and will look to take the field in Saturday's "Big Blue" against Sydney FC pending FFA approval.

Larsson, another midfielder, is coming from Linköpings FC where she has played over 80 matches in arguably the world's best league, the Damallsvenskan, even winning the title in 2009.

The 24 year old was convinced to join Melbourne Victory after conversations with her Linköpings teammate Lisa De Vanna.

Having flown into Melbourne this week, Larsson has been training and will line-up against Sydney FC on Sunday. She will take Melbourne Victory's third and final visa position.

GREEN AND GOLD FOR THWAITE

Perth Glory defender Michael Thwaite has paid tribute to his club team-mates and coaching staff following his inclusion in the Socceroos squad announced earlier this week.

Coach Holger Osieck has selected the 29-year-old alongside established regulars including Lucas Neill, Mark Schwarzer and Luke Wilkshire and fellow-Hyundai A-League representatives Tom Rogic, Aziz Behich, Mat Ryan and Archie Thompson in a 19-man party for next Wednesday's friendly clash with Korea Republic in Hwaseong.

"It's a very pleasant surprise," said Thwaite.

"I've had a few opportunities under Holger (Osieck), but only been on the bench so hopefully I can get some good game time.

"He's got a keen interest in the A-League players and I think there are five of us in the squad and it seems to be a full-strength squad, so I guess I've got to give credit to the coaching staff here at Perth Glory.

"They've changed my game a little bit playing at centre-back and I want to thank the players around me as well.

"Playing with Jamo (Scott Jamieson) at left-back, I think we're building a really good relationship down that side and credit to all the Glory players.

"When you're playing in a top team with top players, you automatically lift and it's a pleasure to be playing with the likes of those players here in Perth."

The former Gold Coast United man will be hoping to add to his tally of six full caps, having represented his country at Under-20 and Under-23 level before making his senior debut in a 2005 friendly victory over Jamaica.

Worth the Wait: Michael Thwaite is back in Socceroo contention once again and hopes to add to his 6 caps.

Since that 5-0 demolition of the Reggae Boyz at Fulham's Craven Cottage, he has been included in squads picked by Frank Farina, Guus Hiddink, Graham Arnold, Pim Verbeek and Holger Osieck and is a big admirer of the man currently occupying the Socceroos hot-seat.

"I've been in the squad for about six years and only won six caps so I've probably got the record for the most appearances in squads," he joked.

"I've played under every coach since Frank Farina and as a 29-year-old you build from those experiences.

"I've got a lot of respect for Holger and not just because he's picked me!

"I like his mentality, I like the structure he plays and hopefully I can give something a little bit different to the team."

But while admitting that the thought of representing his country at a World Cup continues to drive him, Thwaite insisted that he wasn't looking beyond what will be a stern test against a strong Korean side on Wednesday.

"I think every boy's dream is to play in a World Cup," he said.

"I've missed out on two for a couple of political reasons overseas and it would be a dream to play in one.

"But at the end of the day it's a friendly match against South Korea and I'm sure he (Osieck) is looking for performances for the next qualifying games in December for the East Asian Cup and for the World Cup qualifiers next year."

Shane Smeltz, meanwhile, will also be involved in international friendly action next midweek after being included in New Zealand's squad to face China in Shanghai despite not having played any club football since returning from the last international break with a hamstring tear.

Last season's top scorer is in contention for Sunday's clash with Adelaide United at Hindmarsh Stadium after resuming full training earlier this week and neither he nor Thwaite will miss any Glory games due to their international commitments.

Round of 16 beckons for Qantas Futsalroos

The Qantas Futsalroos are just forty minutes away from a place in the last sixteen at the FIFA Futsal World Cup Thailand 2012 following their 3-1 win over Mexico in Group D, a result that kept alive their hopes of progress.

Standing in the way of what would be a huge achievement for the amateur squad are Argentina with the final match of the group stages scheduled for Thursday (midnight AEDT) with everything on the line.

A victory would ensure that the Qantas Futsalroos make the knockout stages but a draw or narrow defeat would leave them perusing the other groups and relying on results elsewhere to qualify as one of the best third placed teams. The Albiceleste meanwhile are in exactly the same boat as the Qantas Futsalroos with their 2-3 defeat to Italy leaving them also on three points in the standings, but with a markedly better goal difference thanks to a convincing 5-1 success over Mexico in their opening match.

Group D Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Italy	2	2	0	0	12	3	8	6
Argentina	2	1	0	1	7	4	4	3
Australia	2	1	0	1	4	10	-8	3
Mexico	2	0	0	2	2	8	-4	0

Italy 9-1 Australia
Australia 3-1 Mexico
Australia v Argentina

Restructure Of FFV Men's Leagues For Season 2013

Football Federation Victoria (FFV) has announced plans to restructure the format of the senior men's competitions for 2013.

While the Victorian Premier League and State League competitions will remain unchanged, the 2013 season will see the restructure of all Provisional and Metropolitan Leagues. The competition will now be split into State League 4 (North, South, East and West) and State League 5 (North South East and West).

FFV CEO Mark Rendell says the changes have come about after extensive consultation with clubs.

"The structure that has been developed has been done because it is what clubs want," he said.

"There will be direct entry into the promotion/relegation system which will mean that Community clubs have the opportunity of moving through the system, from the bottom to the top."

The new structure will also result in the introduction of a State League Champion at each level. All league champions will play off against other regions at their level with the winners scheduled to meet in a State League Final.

"The new format will result in more local football and more local derbies, which can only be good for the game.

"This will also reduce the distances and travel times for all players and supporters which, we believe, will make the experience much more enjoyable as well.

"The leagues will be created solely on club location and not on council boundaries."

Promotion and relegation will generally remain as a two up, two down format, with a play off to be introduced for the runners-up in State League 4.

SCOREBOARD

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Adelaide United	5	4	0	1	8	3	5	12
2 Central Coast Mariners	5	3	1	1	10	4	6	10
3 Perth Glory	5	3	0	2	7	5	2	9
4 Newcastle Jets	5	3	0	2	9	9	0	9
5 West Sydney Wanderers	5	2	1	2	3	3	0	7
6 Melbourne Victory	5	2	0	3	7	12	-5	6
7 Sydney FC	5	2	0	3	7	13	-6	6
8 Wellington Phoenix	5	1	2	2	7	8	-1	5
9 Brisbane Roar	5	1	1	3	6	4	2	4
10 Melbourne Heart	5	1	1	3	4	7	-3	4

THIS WEEK

ROUND 6	FIXTURE	VENUE	LOCAL	AEDT
Fri Nov 09	Melbourne Heart v Brisbane Roar	AAMI Park	7:30pm	7:30pm
Sat Nov 10	W Sydney Wanderers v Newcastle Jets	Parramatta Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Sat Nov 10	Sydney FC v Melbourne Victory	Allianz Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
Sun Nov 11	Wellington Phoenix v Central Coast Mariners	Westpac Stadium	4:30pm	2:30pm
Sun Nov 11	Adelaide United v Perth Glory	Hindmarsh Stadium	4:30pm	5:00pm

NEXT WEEK

ROUND 7	FIXTURE	VENUE	LOCAL	AEDT
Fri Nov 16	Brisbane Roar v Sydney FC	Suncorp Stadium	7:00pm	8:00pm
Sat Nov 17	Adelaide United v Melbourne Heart	Hindmarsh Stadium	5:00pm	5:30pm
Sat Nov 17	Melbourne Victory v Central Coast Mariners	Etihad Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
Sun Nov 18	Newcastle Jets v Wellington Phoenix	Hunter Stadium	3:00pm	3:00pm
Sun Nov 18	Perth Glory Western v W Sydney Wanderers	nib Stadium	2:00pm	5:00pm

ROUND 05 RESULTS

Western Sydney Wanderers 2 *(Bridge 28, Gerhardt 51og)* **Melbourne Heart 1** *(Tadic 57)*
Crowd: 8075 @ Parramatta Stadium

Central Coast Mariners 7 *(Rogic 16, 62, Ryall 29og, McBreen 39p, 65, 67 McGlinchey 55)* **Sydney FC 2** *(Yau 8, Abbas 54)*
Crowd: 15,686 @ Bluetongue Stadium

Perth 3 *(McGarry 10, Ward 37, Harold 84)* **Newcastle 2** *(Calvano 5, Mitchell 70)*
Crowd 9,293 at nib Stadium

Adelaide United 1 *(Vidosic 3)* **Brisbane Roar 0**
Crowd: 12,856 @ Suncorp Stadium

Melbourne Victory 3 *(Rojas 23, Flores 38, 48)* **Wellington Phoenix 2** *(Brockie 81, 90+2)*
Crowd: 20,683 @ Etihad Stadium

TOP GOAL SCORERS

4 - Emile HESKEY (Jets)
Daniel McBreen (Mariners)
Marco Rojas (Victory)
3 - Besart BERISHA (Roar)
Alessandro DEL PIERO (SFC)
Stein HUYSEGEMS (Phoenix)
Jeronimo Neumann (AUFC)
Dario VIDOSIC (Adelaide U)
2 - Ryan GRIFFITHS (Jets)
Billy MEHMET (Glory)
Mark Bridge (Wanderers)
Jeremy Brockie (Phoenix)

Mariner Daniel McBreen hits the first hat-trick of the season, which catapults him equal top on the leader board.

A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK ROUND 05

Compiled by Steven Talevski

GK: Eugene Galakovic – Adelaide's number one was absolutely immense between the sticks in a man of the match performers against Brisbane Roar.

RB: Pedj Bojic – His attacking runs down the wing was an important factor in the Mariners smashing of Sydney FC.

CB: Iain Fyfe – The Adelaide United defender had a superb game in defence to help his side keep a clean sheet in the reds surprise one nil victory over the Roar.

CB: Josh Mitchell – His side may have leaked goals but Mitchell was able to get on the score sheet for the Jets as well as being a stand out in defence for Newcastle.

LB: Scott Jamieson – Jamieson continued his good start of the season with another impressive display in Perth's 3-2 victory over Newcastle.

RCM: Aaron Mooy – The youngster makes Goal! Weekly's team of the week for the second round in a row after another fantastic game in Western Sydney's first ever win at home.

CM: Mark Milligan – Since being moved into the centre of the park, Milligan has been a standout for the Victory and was at his best against the Phoenix providing the Victory attackers with some great passes.

LCM: Michael McGlinchey – The Kiwi is one of four Central Coast players in the team of the week as he played a part in a number of goals including scoring one himself.

RAM: Tom Rogic – The nineteen year old was the Mariners best scoring a double in front of a large crowd. Rogic's ability to take on defenders and play in his teammates through to goal is to be admired.

LAM: Marco Rojas – The former Phoenix youngster scored two goals against his old side as he continues to get better by the week for the Victory.

ST: Daniel McBreen – The striker scored the first ever hat trick for the Central Coast in a goal poaching performance against Sydney FC.

Coach: Graham Arnold – The former Socceroos player and manager lead his Central Coast squad in a smashing against Sydney FC in front of a huge crowd at Bluetongue Stadium. Despite losing the likes of Mustafa Amini, Matt Simon and Alex Wilkinson, Arnold looks to have built another strong squad.

Star Man

Eugene Galekovic
Adelaide United

Undoubtedly this week's most impressive goalkeeper was also this week's best player in a tremendous performance against Brisbane. Galakovic made a string of saves against the reigning premiers to help Adelaide United hand Brisbane their second straight loss at home this season.

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Publisher: Alimental Enterprises Pty Ltd
PO Box 142 Port Melb VIC 3207
Ph: 03 9551 7538

Distribution: All Day Distribution
Tel: (03) 9482 1145

Advertising: 03 9551 7538
Email: news@goalweekly.com
Letters: mailbag@goalweekly.com
Web: www.goalweekly.com

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Wanderers Secure Historic Home Win

West Sydney

2

Melbourne Heart

1

Match Details

West Sydney Wanderers 2 (Bridge 27', Gerhardt (OG) 50')
Melbourne Heart 1 (Tadic 56')
Venue: Parramatta Stadium
Crowd: 8075

Wanderers: 1.A.Covic, 3.A.D'Apuzzo, 4.N.Topor-Stanley, 5.M.Beauchamp, 6.J.Polenz, 8.M.Poljak, 10.A.Mooy, 13.L.Gibbs, 17.Y.Hersi (Cole 87'), 19.M.Bridge, 21.S.Ono (Haliti 73').

Yellow Cards: Ono 7', Gibbs 64', D'Apuzzo 75', Poljak 83'.

Melbourne Heart: 1.C.Bolton, 2.M.Marrone, 4.S.Colosimo, 6.P.Gerhart, 8 M.Thompson (Kalmar 85'), 10.J.Tadic, 11.R.Garcia, 16.A.Behic, 17.J.Hoffman (Macallister 71'), 23.M.Dugandzic, 24.S.Hutchinson.

Yellow cards: Tadic 26', Colosimo 69', Mitchinson 86'.

By FFA

Western Sydney Wanderers have held on for their first home Hyundai A-League win, beating Melbourne Heart 2-1 at Parramatta Stadium on Friday night.

The home side appeared to be cruising with Mark Bridge's strike and an own goal by Heart defender Patrick Gerhardt putting them two up just after half-time.

But Heart striker Josip Tadic set up a thrilling finish when he smashed home a cracking volley on 57 minutes to halve the deficit.

The visitors pushed hard for an equaliser and spurned a couple of decent chances to snatch a point in front of just over 8000 fans in Sydney's west.

It is now three straight defeats for John Aloisi's side, who could finish the round on the bottom of the table if neighbours Melbourne Victory defeat Wellington on Monday night.

But it's nothing but positives for the Wanderers who made it back-to-back wins and again showed they will be more than just competitive in their debut season.

Both sides were having trouble creating any clear-cut chances in a physical but sloppy opening.

There were a number of fierce challenges being put in, including one by Japanese superstar Shinji Ono on Jason Hoffman that may have been lucky just to be a yellow card.

So it was perhaps not a surprise that when things settled down and there was the first bit of quality play it resulted in a goal to Bridge on 28 minutes.

Aaron Mooy was given too much time in the middle of the park and he was able to thread a clever pass to Joey Gibbs on the edge of the box.

The young striker's touch went behind him a little but the ball fell perfectly into the path of Bridge, whose side-footed finish slipped underneath Clint Bolton and into the net.

Uninspiring for most of the opening half, the visitors almost hit back five minutes later but Mate Dugandzic blazed his volley over the bar from just six yards out.

It took less than six minutes into the second half for the home side to double their lead.

The Wanderers broke quickly from defence with Mateo Poljak releasing Youssouf Hersi down the right wing.

The pacey winger's cross looked like it would be easily dealt with only for Gerhardt to scuff his clearance into his own net.

It was a cruel piece of luck for the Heart but six minutes later they pulled a goal back.

Aziz Behich swung in a high cross to the far post which was met with a sweet right-foot volley by Tadic that cannoned in off the far post.

The Heart were almost level a minute later when Richard Garcia's strike at close range hit the post and went wide.

It was as close as they came in a tense finish to the match with the Wanderers holding on to move up into the top six for the first time this season.

Aaron Mooy was man of the match, and the youngster again put in a brilliant display and it was his creativity and vision that ultimately led to Mark Bridge netting the Wanderers first ever home goal.

Michael Bridge gets on the scoresheet for the Wanderers for a second week in a row. Photo: GREG SEATON

Match Stats

2	Saves	4
5	Attempts on target	3
10	Attempts off target	11
49%	Possession	51%
4	Corners	3
1	Offsides	1
24	Fouls committed	16

Croatian forward Josip Tadic pulls one back for Melbourne Heart. Photo: GREG SEATON

Wanderers celebrate but it's all too much to bear for Aziz Behic (Heart). Photo: GREG SEATON

7th Heaven Mariners Lap the Sydney Statues

CC Mariners 7

Sydney FC 2

Match Details

Central Coast Mariners 7 (Tomas Rogic 16, Seb Ryall og 30, Daniel McBreen 39 pen, Michael McGlinchy 56, Tomas Rogic 63, Daniel McBreen 65, Daniel McBreen 67)
Sydney FC 2 (Yairo Yau 8, Ali Abbas 54)
Bluetongue Stadium
Referee: Strebre Delovski
Crowd: 15,686

Sydney FC: 1. Ivan Necevski, 2. Seb Ryall, 7. Brett Emerton (c), 9. Paul Reid (24. Hagi Gligor '71), 14. Mitch Mallia, 18. Trent McClenahan, 19. Kruno Lovrek (12. Blake Powell '46), 21. Yairo Yau, 22. Ali Abbas, 23. Rhyan Grant, 25. Daniel Petkovski (15. Terry McFlynn '46).

Subs not used: 20. Vedran Janjetovic (gk).
Yellow cards: McClenahan 38, Yau 41, Ryall 83.

Central Coast: 1. Matthew Ryan, 2. Daniel McBreen, 3. Joshua Rose, 4. Pedj Bojic, 6. Patrick Zwaanswjik, 7. John Hutchinson, 10. Tom Rogic, 14. Michael McGlinchy (12. Troy Hearfield '82), 16. Trent Sainsbury (5. Zac Anderson '85), 18. Nick Montgomery, 21. Mile Sterjovski (9. Bernie Ibini '68)

Sub not used: 20. Justin Pasfield (gk).
Yellow card: Sainsbury 22.

By Adrian Deans

Being described as statuesque might be money in the bank for a model, but not for a football team.

The main difference between these two teams was movement off the ball. If you took your eyes of the man with the ball and just concentrated on the respective team shapes, the Mariners were in perfect formation – moving as a unit. Sydney, in contrast, were statues. It was really noticeable that even when Sydney had the ball, there was more movement among the Mariners players – constantly adjusting to any threat, and so well organised they were usually able to throw two against one.

In possession, the constant movement meant lots of options for the Mariners on the ball – making it simple to play the easy pass and keep possession. For Sydney there was always pressure on the pass because there was no movement, so no easy options.

If movement was the main difference, the other match-defining factor was Sydney's decision to do nothing about Tom Rogic. All other teams this season have had someone sit on Rogic and, as often as not, he's had to beat two players just to get to his pass. Saturday night was luxury. He constantly got ball to feet in space and was able to wreak havoc. And yet, Sydney appeared to do nothing about it. Either they chose to ignore his impact or whoever was given the job of closing him down simply wasn't able to get close.

Yes, they had six first team choices out, but these are professional footballers who have been training for months. There ought to be some evidence of a system that all players understand and can step into when required. Instead, the Cove – travelling in their usual impressive numbers – were treated to a shapeless rabble. Eleven witch's hats might have been just as effective in defence.

In fact Sydney were so bad, I can't even gauge the Mariners' performance. They were superbly well drilled and utterly ruthless. If they hadn't gotten a little (understandably) cavalier after the seventh goal, it could have been double figures.

Having said all of that, let's look for the positives. The Mariners are a very good team and will certainly figure at the business end of the season. Holger Osieck was in the crowd – doubtless looking for players for the friendly against South Korea and the East Asian tournament. He must have been impressed with Rogic and Josh Rose. Mat Ryan he already knows about, but what about Trent Sainsbury? He has looked fabulous this year and despite it being ridiculously early, it couldn't hurt to have a close look at him, and even just squad selection would do wonders for his confidence.

As far as Sydney are concerned, it's back to the drawing board. The return of Del Piero will, on the face of it, be an enormous plus for Sydney, but this performance showed how overly reliant they are on his creativity. When he's in they can be stopped by closing off his service. When he's out, Sydney are clueless.

Crooky (no doubt) will flog them this week in preparation for their main rivals – Victory – who looked awfully good against Wellington on Monday night. Hard work is one thing but it's not the work rate that is the problem. Sydney have to start subscribing to a team shape and philosophy. They can play with shape – they did it for 15 minutes at the beginning of both halves and won those periods two nil. But then they lost concentration and were mesmerised by the possession, pace and purpose of the Mariners.

Sydney should also avoid making panic selections. It was the system that was lacking as much as the players and these players will be desperate for redemption at home. If I were Crooky I'd give most of them another chance, dropping only as many as need to make way for the likes of Del Piero and whoever else of the 'automatic' selections as may be returning. Jason Culina will make a huge difference if fit and should work well with Ali Abbas (who must be retained). I heard a few people complaining about the number of his passes that went astray, but as mentioned above, that was more due to the lack of easy options than any lack of skill. Abbas is an effective player who can do a lot of damage when other players are on his wavelength.

The last word should go to the Cove. Despite the score, despite even the abject 'staring into the headlights' performance of their beloved team, they never stopped singing and supporting. The Cove are a credit to the A-League and an example to all active support of how to behave – win, lose or draw.

Dogga would have been proud of them.

Match Stats

1	Saves	4
11	Attempts on target	3
6	Attempts off target	4
51%	Possession	49%
4	Corners	4
0	Offsides	5
12	Fouls committed	16

Daniel McBreen tops off a remarkable night for the Mariners with a hat-trick to remember. Photo: PETER NEVILLE

Tom Rogic takes on all comers and can only be stopped by some unorthodox defending. Photo: PETER NEVILLE

Hat-trick hero Daniel McBreen is the man of the moment and celebrates accordingly with team-mates. Photo: BEN NEVILLE

Glory Triumphs In Best of Five Thriller

By Juanita Shepherd

Perth Glory 3

Newcastle Jets 2

Match Details

Perth Glory 3 (McGarry 10, Ward 37, Harold 84)
Newcastle Jets 2 (Calvano 5, Mitchell 70)
Crowd 9,293 at nib Stadium.

Perth Glory: 1.D.Vukovic, 3.B.van den Brink, 4.B.Mehmet, 6.N.Ward (Harold 77'), 8.D.Heffernan, 10.L.Miller, 13.T.Dodd, 14.S.McGarry (Makarounas 73'), 19.J.Risdon, 21.S.Jamieson, 23.M.Thwaite.

Yellow cards: McGarry 10, Thwaite 51', Ward 58', Jamieson 64'.

Newcastle Jets: 20.M.Birighitti, 2.S.Neville, 3.T.Calvano (Pepper 90'), 4.J.Mitchell, 7.J.Brown (Ribiero 77'), 8.R.Zadkovic, 9.E.Heskey, 15.C.Goodwin, 16.J.Wheelhouse, 17.J.Virgili, 23.R.Griffiths.

Yellow cards: Mitchell 7', Griffiths 34', Calvano 43', Virgili 79'.

In the most highly anticipated game since Perth Glory played Brisbane Roar at the start of the A-League season, Glory played Newcastle Jets at nib Stadium winning 3-2 to tumultuous support from frenzied fans.

It was a mind blowing game and words fail to adequately convey the tension and excitement as both teams rose to the challenge, but in the end it was a late strike from Chris Harold which secured the clear win for Glory; adding to the Jets losing streak in Western Australia.

Everyone expected the star of the game to be Emile Heskey, it goes without saying that when a former Liverpool player is present he is automatically the star however it was only in the 73rd minute when his header allowed Josh Mitchell to score that his skills were glimpsed, other than that Van Den Brink and Michal Thwaite did a good job containing him.

The game began instantly with both sides eager to win; the sixth minute saw a superb goal by Jets centre back Tiago Calvano, following Josh Mitchell's perfectly executed header - much to the dismay of Glory fans. But Perth Glory bounced back when in the 11th minute Perth Glory's Steven McGarry scored from 26 metres, resulting in the stadium erupting with deafening shouts.

The game saw both sides with pretty much equal possession of the ball, especially in the first half, but the second half witnessed Perth Glory dominating, there was no stopping them, no matter how hard the Jets fought to gain control they simply couldn't; resulting in Perth Glory claiming 51% of the ball and the Newcastle Jets claiming 49% of the ball.

Just before half time Glory scored again much to the delight of everyone gathered at nib stadium. The effective team work of Nick Ward and Dean Heffernan ensured a goal in the 37th minute as Jets goalie Mark Birighitti simply could not stop the ball as it sailed into the goal, leaving Glory at 2-1 as half time came around.

Many are of the opinion that the score board should've read 3-1 in favour of Perth Glory at half time following a goal from Scott Jamieson which was ruled out as offside, but Ian Ferguson did not get nearly as agitated with the referee as he did when his team played Sydney FC, confident in the fact that Glory were on a winning streak.

The second half saw Perth Glory dominate; even the brilliance of Emile Heskey playing like he was supposed to in the second half could not deter the Glory side from securing the much coveted 3 points.

The match wasn't without its drama, with a number of players from both teams receiving yellow cards, Mitchell, Griffiths, Calvano, Virgili for Newcastle and Risdon, Thwaite, Ward and Jamieson for Perth.

The drama was heightened with a goal from Josh Mitchell but Chris Harold's goal in the 86th minute gave Glory it's undeniable win. It was an exhilarating game, probably the best game so far in the A-League.

Perth Glory are victorious after supersub Chris Harold clinches the winner late in the match. Photo: CRAIG ECCLES

Match Stats

Perth Glory		Newcastle Jets
3	Saves	2
5	Attempts on target	6
4	Attempts off target	3
51%	Possession	49%
8	Corners	4
7	Offsides	1
18	Fouls committed	17

Perth's Billy Mehmet (4) leads the celebrations with match winner Chris Harold (17). Photo: CRAIG ECCLES

Josh Mitchell (Jets) wins the aerial battle against Billy Mehmet (Glory). Photo: CRAIG ECCLES

Roar Left To Lick Wounds After Reds Snatch Points

Brisbane Roar 0

Adelaide United 1

Match Details

Brisbane Roar 0
Adelaide United 1 (Dario Vidosic 2')
Sunday, 4 November 2012
Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane
Kick Off: 4pm Local Time
Referee: Chris Beath
Crowd: 12,856

Brisbane Roar: 1. Michael Theo (Gk), 2. Matt Smith (C), 3. Shane Stefanutto, 4. Matt Jurman, 5. Ivan Franjic, 6. Erik Paartalu, 7. Besart Berisha, 8. Massimo Murdocca, 10. Henrique (24. Nick Fitzgerald 81'), 17. Mitch Nichols, 19. Jack Hingert, 22. Thomas Broich

Substitutes Not Used: 18. Luke Brattan, 19. Jack Hingert, 20. Matt Acton (Gk)
Yellow Cards: Shane Stefanutto 30'
Red Cards: Nil

Adelaide United: 1. Eugene Galekovic (Gk), 2. Osama Malik, 3. Nigel Boogaard, 5. Iain Fyfe, 8. Marcelo Carrusca (22. Fabio Ferreira 66'), 9. Serginho Van Dijk, 10. Dario Vidosic (11. Bruce Djite 81'), 12. Antony Golec, 16. Daniel Bowles, 17. Iain Ramsay, 21. Jeronimo Neumann (14. Cameron Watson 58')

Substitutes Not Used: 30. John Hall (Gk)
Yellow Cards: Serginho Van Dijk 31', Marcelo Carrusca 37', Dario Vidosic 73', Daniel Bowles 77', Eugene Galekovic 90+2'
Red CaRds: Nil

By Jarrod Ellis

Brisbane Roar's season took another stuttering step on Sunday as they went down 1-0 to Adelaide United.

Despite dominating possession Brisbane was simply unable to break down a resilient Reds outfit and with Eugene Galekovic in excellent form, a Dario Vidosic strike was enough to separate the two sides.

A third loss from five starts now sees the reigning A-League Champions sitting in eighth spot on the ladder, eight points behind league leader Adelaide.

United's first win over Brisbane in seven games was built on a dream start thanks to a classic curling free kick from Vidosic.

A foul just outside the box in the third minute gave Vidosic the opportunity and despite a slight deflection off Mitch Nichols, Vidosic's effort flew into the top corner of the net to hand Adelaide the early advantage over his former side, now coached by his father.

Conceding an early goal appeared to spur the home side on and it was the Roar who had the hold over the possession and the goal-scoring opportunities for the remainder of the first half.

Thomas Broich went close with diving header and soon after, Nichols missed a chance from point-blank range that was carved out by the returning Ivan Franjic down the right flank.

The German playmaker slammed a later chance into Eugene Galekovic's side netting before the Adelaide goalkeeper was called into action to palm away the header from one of his own defenders after a well-taken Roar free kick.

The Reds' were looking threatening on the counter and their best chance of the first forty-five arrived in just that fashion, a 39th minute clearance from Galekovic almost caught Brisbane out, Ivan Franjic and Theo doing just enough to keep Jeronimo from pouncing.

Adelaide did find the back of the net again in the opening minutes of the second half; Sergio van Dijk heading home from a corner, but the visitors' celebrations were short lived as match referee Chris Beath blew the whistle for a foul in the area.

Brisbane continued on in the same manner as they displayed in the first half, controlling possession and continually finding space out wide but the home team were lacking a cutting edge and Adelaide's defence held firm in the face of Brisbane's attacks.

Brisbane looked to have found an equaliser late on but Galekovic managed to deny Paartalu from capitalising from an in swinging Broich cross, the Reds keeper producing a breathtaking close range stop.

United's defenders also produced impressive displays part, Iain Fyfe recording two timely blocks, while Boogaard, Daniel Bowles and Antony Golec were more than holding their own.

While Brisbane controlled possession for the afternoon, the Reds displayed the resilience that saw them reach the quarter finals of the AFC Champions League this year as they secured the three points.

"We'll take the three points. Brisbane did exceptionally well but I think we also defended exceptionally well," Reds Coach John Kosmina said after the game.

"I think we turned the ball over too much and I'm not too sure why, we got a bit rattled. Brisbane are the sort of side that can rattle you because of the pressure they apply"

"When we did keep the ball we looked alright, when we didn't we made opportunities for Brisbane, but having said that we defended well and Eugene Galekovic was outstanding again."

"Eugene is great in the shot stopping category, he dealt with a lot of difficult balls in the air as well so credit to him, he's done a great job for us and earned us three points."

Despite the loss Brisbane's Rado Vidosic wasn't hitting the panic button.

"We created enough chances against a team that defended desperately," he said.

"We got around them, we got some very good opportunities and any other day we could have scored a couple of goals and that would have been enough."

Sorry Dad! Adelaide United are off the mark early thanks to Dario Vidosic. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

Match Stats

1	Saves	6
11	Attempts on target	2
13	Attempts off target	2
64%	Possession	36%
13	Corners	1
5	Offsides	2
12	Fouls committed	13

Serge Van Dijk flies high in a packed penalty area to direct his header goalwards. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

Daniel Bowles (AUFC) is stopped in his tracks by Thomas Broich (Roar). Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

Victory withstand late Phoenix flurry

Melbourne Victory 3

Wellington Phoenix 2

Match Details

Melbourne Victory 3 (Marco Rojas 23', 48', Marcos Flores 38')
Wellington Phoenix 2
(Jeremy Brockie 81, 90+2')
Venue: Etihad Stadium
Referee: Shaun Evans
Attendance: 20,683

Melbourne Victory: 39. Nathan COE, 3. Adama TRAORE, 4. Petar FRANJIC, 5. Mark MILLIGAN, 7. Guilherme FINKLER (17. Jimmy JEGGO 59'), 9. Marcos FLORES (8. Jonathan BRU 75'), 10. Archie THOMPSON, 11. Marco ROJAS, (26. Andrew Nabbout 75'), 13. Diogo FERREIRA, 14. Billy CELESKI, 23. Adrian LEIJER.

Unused substitutes: 1 Tando Velaphi.
Yellow cards: Nil
Red cards: Nil

Wellington Phoenix: Mark Paston (GK), 2. Manny Muscat, 3. Tony Lochhead, 5. Michael Boxall, 6. Alex Smith, 7. Leo Bertos, 8. Paul Ifill (12. Tyler Boyd 56'), 10. Stein Huysegems (9. Benjamin Totori 56'), 11. Jeremy Brockie, 16. Louis Fenton (17. Vince Lia 65'), 22. Andrew Durante.

Unused substitutes: 20. Glen Moss
Yellow cards: Michael Boxall 12'
Red cards: Nil.

By Daniel Quinn

Melbourne Victory have withstood Wellington's late comeback to defeat the Phoenix 3-2 at Etihad Stadium on Monday night for Ange Postecoglou's second win as Victory Coach.

The Victorians took a 2-0 lead into half-time after goals from Marco Rojas and sensational goal by Marcos Flores, before Rojas grabbed a second early in the second-half.

Despite barely threatening all evening the Phoenix scored a consolidation goal in spectacular fashion through Jeremy Brockie, before the former Jet added a second with a stunning curling free-kick.

Victory were the brighter of the sides in the opening minutes as their first-half passing was simply sublime with Flores, Gui Finkler, Rojas and Archie Thompson linking up well.

And those four combined to set up Thompson on 8 minutes, but from Rojas' lovely through ball, the Socceroo could only chip wide.

Thompson was involved in plenty of the first-half for the hosts and should have given the Victory the advantage, but the 34-year-old couldn't touch Mark Milligan's driven cross into the net.

Immediately the Phoenix went up the other end with Louis Fenton, although the teenager's lovely curling cross wasn't poked home by an outreached Stein Huysegems.

On 23 minutes Victory found a deserved equaliser as Thompson ran onto a delightful Finkler through ball, before finding a charging Rojas who finished into an empty net.

Wellington had their chances too as Brockie beat the offside trap, but Nathan Coe was on form with a great low save to deny the former Newcastle Jet.

But shortly before the break Victory doubled their advantage as Flores scored his first goal for his new club.

A wonderful interchange of passes between Flores and Finkler, including two one-twos, was finished off by the Argentine with the outside of his foot.

Three minutes after the resumption Victory looked to have secured all three points as a perfect Mark Milligan defence-splitting ball put Thompson through, before the Socceroo found Rojas lerking on the right who made no mistake finishing into the bottom corner, a carven copy of the opener.

Thompson could have added a fourth immediately, however, the veteran forward miss-struck his effort over the bar summing up his current form.

Victory were looking just to see the game out as Flores brought the tricks out, while the Phoenix didn't really pose a threat.

But Wellington threatened later in the half as defender Michael Boxall directed a bullet header on target only for Coe to pull off a wonderful one-handed save, before substitute Tyler Boyd volleyed wide.

Wellington's persistence was rewards though as Brockie whipped in a brilliant effort from the edge of the box with his left foot which clipped in off the crossbar.

And it wasn't over as Brockie complete his brace curling a stunning effort over the line, despite Coe saving, clearly a goal though.

Victory's Marcos Rojas grabs a double and is the toast of the town. Photo: ANITA MILAS

Match Stats

2	Saves	2
4	Attempts on target	4
4	Attempts off target	5
53%	Possession	47%
3	Corners	4
5	Offsides	3
13	Fouls committed	7

The Phoenix stage a late comeback much to the deight of the travelling Yellow Fever fans. Photo: ANITA MILAS

Nathan Cole is at full stretch but can't stop Jeremy Brockie's wonderful effort from sneaking in at the top corner and off the woodwork. Photo: ANITA MILAS

PICS OF ROUND 05

Les Shorrock's Action Packed Picture Page

Jets coach Nick van Egmond leads off his troops, Emile Heskey and Jacob Pepper, after agonisingly losing the match against Glory at the death. Photo: CRAIG ECCLES

The scene outside Bluetongue stadium as fans prepare to enter the goalfeast that awaits between Mariners and SFC. Photo: BEN NEVILLE

Wanders fans get ready for summer soccer. PHOTO: ALI KERHAN

The Victory crowd don't need a horse race to get them excited on Cup Eve. Photo: ANITA MILAS

The future is orange! Roar fans show their colours. PHOTO: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

SFC and Mariners fans have a ball of a time on the coast. Photo: BEN NEVILLE

Goal! Weekly makes a splash on the Centrral Coast. Photo: PETER NEVILLE

Perth Glory players share the joy with their faithful followers. Photo: CRAIG ECCLES

Melbourne Heart v Brisbane Roar

Fri Nov 09 AAMI Park 7:30pm

By Ian Syson

It's probably too early for dire predictions but Melbourne Heart needs to produce some quality soon or face the prospect of playing catch-up football for the rest of the season. A loss to Brisbane Roar in the upcoming bottom-of-the-table clash would see Heart firmly ensconced at the wrong end with daylight and not goal difference separating it from the teams above.

Brisbane Roar has no basis for smugness either. Its own woeful run of results was only interrupted by the demolition of Victory at Lang Park in Round 2, the week after Heart's derby win. Perhaps the Heart and Roar supporters could get a collective chant going, "Melbourne Victory: Can we play you every week?" Having said that, I get the feeling that Ange's new improved team would fare slightly better against both cellar dwellers now the season is starting to get into swing and his team is beginning to click.

Clicking is not the problem for either of these teams. Heart has demonstrated how well it can fire time and again without being able to sustain its efforts or put the ball in the net very often. Last week against Wanderers it showed in the second half the kind of attractive football of which it is capable. But in the end a marvellous volleyed goal to Tadic was all the team had to show from its sporadic good work.

Heart defends well and also plays the ball out from the back reasonably well. It just loses its way as the goals near with a midfield that just doesn't seem to work effectively and hard enough to get the job done. Coach John Aloisi must be sweating on the impending inclusion of Vinnie Grella to give his midfield the kind of creativity, energy and solidity it needs. And let's face it, a midfield composed of Grella, Garcia, Fred, with Thompson and Dugandzic as a supporting cast intimates rich possibilities. Up front, Tadic, Macallister and Williams have all shown they can find the net. Let's see how they go when this midfield gives them decent, frequent supply.

I haven't had the opportunity to see Roar play this year but my sense is that they have been resting on their laurels to some extent. Last year's grand final and this year's Oedipal smashing of Postecoglou's team have perhaps left the team a little too self-satisfied. Wanderers took the game to them in Brisbane and it sounded as if they had no response to the new team's energy and commitment. Moreover, Roar's guns have failed to fire. Over recent weeks Broich and Berisha have had nothing like the impact they and coach Vidošić might have liked.

Again it is way too early to panic but Vidošić must be starting feel the frissons of doubt creeping into his thinking.

After round 1 this season, this game held the promise of Australia's best and most attractive team over the past two years taking on a good hard-working team capable of producing its own brand of excitement and flair. Apparently a month is a long time in football and what seems to be in store is a desperate struggle not to lose. We'll see.

Kiss of Death
Heart 1-1 Roar

Heart Line Up

1.Clint Bolton (Gk)
2. Michael Marrone
4. Simon Colosimo
6. Patrick Gerhardt
8. Matthew Thompson
9. Dylan Macallister
10. Josip Tadic
11. Richard Garcia
15. David Williams
16. Aziz Behich
17. Jason Hoffman
20. Andrew Redmayne (Gk)
21. Steven Gray
22. Nick Kalmar
23. Mate Dugandzic
24. Sam Mitchinson
one to be omitted

Ins: Nil

Outs: 5. Fred (C) (Hamstring – One Week), 13. Jonatan Germano (Fitness – Undisclosed), 14. Golgol Mebrahtu, 18. David Vrankovic (International Duty - Qantas Young Socceroos), 19. Ben Garuccio (International Duty – Qantas Young Socceroos)

Unavailable: 31. Vince Grella

Roar Line Up

1. Michael Theo (Gk)
2. Matt Smith (C)
3. Shane Stefanutto
4. Matt Jurman
5. Ivan Franjic
6. Erik Paartalu
8. Massimo Murdocca
10. Henrique
11. Ben Halloran
14. Rocky Visconte
17. Mitch Nichols
18. Luke Brattan
19. Jack Hingert
20. Matt Acton (Gk)
22. Thomas Broich
24. Nick Fitzgerald
one to be omitted

Ins: Rocky Visconte (Promoted)

Outs: Besart Berisha (Abdomen – One Week)

Unavailable: Nil

W Syd Wanderers v Newcastle Jets

Sat Nov 10 Parramatta Stdm 5:30pm

By Shaun Dyas

The Western Sydney Wanderers welcome the Newcastle Jets in A-League action on Saturday night at Parramatta Stadium.

The match will be of extra significance for both sets of players due to the close ties that the players share with one another.

A quick glance through the Wanderers roster reveals that up to six former Jets players will be preparing to face their former club.

Tarek Elrich, Labinot Haliti, Mark Bridge, Adam DaPuzzo, Nikolai Topor-Stanley and Ante Covic will be looking forward to the opportunity of putting one over their former team mates.

Bridge will be especially keen given he is coming off 2 goals in as many matches which has coincided not only with the first home and away goals for the fledgling club, but also their first two victories. Although the marquee man at the Wanderers is the former Japan Star Shinji Ono, it is more likely that his midfield counterpart Aaron Mooy will be the man providing the service.

The youngster has been simply outstanding for the Wanderers and is one man that the visitors will have to curtail if they are to get something from the match.

Jets captain Jobe Wheelhouse will be the man who will have to control the influence of the exciting Mooy and he will be equally pumped for the match

He will play his 100th match in the A-League on Saturday night and will want nothing less than a victory to celebrate the occasion.

Along with Wheelhouse, the performance of Ben Kantarovski will be crucial to the outcome of the match. At his best the Newcastle midfielder can comfortably control the tempo of any match and coach Gary Van Egmond will hope he can dictate terms on Saturday. The battle up front will also be an intriguing one. Bridge is in top form at the moment and everyone knows of the threat provided by the Jets star import Emile Heskey. The big Englishman was slightly off last week against the Glory in Perth. It is highly unlikely that he will put in two poor performances in succession.

He will be up against arguably the strongest central defensive pairing in the league. Michael Beauchamp and Topor-Stanley have been the major reason for the Wanderers steely defence this season.

Jets coach Gary Van Egmond will be keen to exploit the deficiencies he sees in the game of Topor- Stanley and it would not surprise if he plays someone quick up alongside the imposing Heskey.

The game is sure to be a cracker, especially with the added spice of the former Jets players going up against each other. I can't see there being too much in this game although I think both sides have the firepower to find the back of the net.

For that reason I see the game being a draw and it wouldn't surprise if both scorers end up being Bridge and Heskey.

Kiss of Death
Wanderers 1-0 Jets

Wanderers Line Up

1. Ante Covic (Gk)
2. Shannon Cole
3. Adam D'apuzzo
4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley
5. Michael Beauchamp
6. Jerome Polenz
7. Labinot Haliti
8. Mateo Poljak
9. Dino Kresinger
10. Aaron Mooy
11. Tarek Elrich
12. Tahj Minniecon
13. Joey Gibbs
14. Kwabena Appiah-Kubi
17. Youssouf Hersi
18. Iacopo La Rocca
19. Mark Bridge
20. Jerrad Tyson (Gk)
21. Shinji Ono
23. Jason Trifiro
five to be omitted

Ins: 9. Dino Kresinger (Return From Injury), 18. Iacopo La Rocca (Return From Injury), 2. Shannon Cole, 11. Tarek Elrich, 12. Tahj Minniecon, 14. Kwabena Appiah-Kubi (All Promoted)
Outs: Nil
Unavailable:15. Reece Caira (Qantas Young Socceroos Duty)

Jets Line Up

2. Scott Neville
3. Tiago Calvano
4. Josh Mitchell
5. Dominik Ritter
7. James Brown
8. Ruben Zadkovich
9. Emile Heskey
10. Bernardo Ribeiro
14. Taylor Regan
15. Craig Goodwin
16. Jobe Wheelhouse (C)
17. James Virgili
18. Jacob Pepper
19. Michael Bridges
20. Mark Birighitti (Gk)
21. Marko Jesic
23. Ryan Griffiths
33. Matt Nash (Gk)
three to be omitted

Ins: Dominik Ritter, Michael Bridges, And Marko Jesic (Promoted)

Outs: Ben Kantarovski (Knee)

Unavailable: Josh Brillante, Connor Chapman, Jack Duncan, Mitch Oxborrow And Adam Taggart (All on Qantas Young Socceroos Duty), Ben Kennedy (Knee)

Sydney FC v Melbourne Victory

Sat Nov 10 Allianz Stadium 7:45pm

By FFA

It's been a week of inquisitions and soul-searching at Sydney FC after last weekend's 7-2 annihilation at the hands of the Central Coast.

Sky Blues fans and coach Ian Crook will be expecting an immediate response from his players and what better way to banish the demons of the club's worst-ever defeat than by beating fierce rivals Melbourne Victory.

In a huge boost for Sydney Italian superstar Alessandro De Piero is almost certain to return after missing the Mariners debacle with hamstring soreness.

The Sky Blues' defensive woes could be eased for this clash with Pascal Bosschaart, Adam Griffiths and Fabio all a chance to return from injury. Bosschaart and Griffiths both played 45 minutes in a friendly game against Western Sydney this week and if they pull-up well Crook is likely to rush them straight back in.

Socceroos midfielder Jason Culina also played in that match and is a contender for a spot on the bench. It's a lot more settled at Victory, who have no new injury concerns and have moved into the top six for the first time this season on the back of their 3-2 win over Wellington.

While they continue to leak goals against them, the Victory's attacking weapons of Archie Thompson, Marco Rojas, Marcos Flores and Gui Finkler are all in good form and will relish the prospect of taking on a shaky Sydney back-four.

The big issue

Sydney: He may only be in his first season in charge but Ian Crook is an experienced coach and he will need to use all his powers to repair the shattered confidence of his players.

It's only natural that last week's thrashing will have sapped a lot of belief out of the Sky Blues squad which they will need to rediscover quickly if they are a chance against the Victory. The possible return of a couple of key defenders could help but they will need more than that to turn things around.

It's vital they start well or the home fans may get on their back and what's left of their brittle confidence could be eaten away, making this weekend's challenge even greater.

Victory: The two-time champions were breathtaking in the opening hour against the Phoenix but almost undid all their good work by clocking off early. The late lapse was something coach Ange Postecoglou has taken notice of and he will be stressing the need to see games out with much greater efficiency if they are to continue to rise up the ladder.

The game breaker

Alessandro Del Piero: It's too much to say Del Piero's absence was the sole reason for his side's heavy loss to the Mariners but there's no doubt the Sky Blues players feel much more comfortable when he is on the field.

He should be fresh after the week off and if Sydney can tighten things up at the back, Del Piero's brilliance at the other end could turn the game in their favour. The Italian veteran turns 38 the day before the game and would love nothing more than to celebrate his birthday with a goal and a win

Kiss of Death
SFC 2-3 Victory

Sydney FC Line Up

1. Ivan Necevski (Gk)
2. Sebastian Ryall
3. Fabio
4. Pascal Bosschaart
6. Jason Culina
7. Brett Emerton
9. Paul Reid
10. Alessandro Del Piero
12. Blake Powell
14. Mitch Mallia
15. Terry Mcflynn
18. Trent Mcclenahan
19. Kruno Lovrek
20. Vedran Janjetovic (Gk)
21. Yairo Yau
22. Ali Abbas
23. Rhyan Grant
24. Hagi Gligor

three to be omitted

Ins: Fabio (Returns From Injury), Pascal Bosschaart (Returns From Injury), Jason Culina (Returns From Injury), Alessandro Del Piero (Returns From Injury)

Outs: Daniel Petkovski (Not Selected)

Unavailable: 5. Nathan Sherlock (Groin, 1 Week), 8. Adam Griffiths (Hamstring, 1 Week), 16. Joel Chianese (Quad, 1 Weeks), 17. Terry Antonis (Qantas Young Socceroos Duty)

Victory Line Up

1. Tando Velaphi (Gk)
2. Matthew Foschini
3. Adama Traore
4. Petar Franjic
5. Mark Milligan
6. Leigh Broxham
7. Gui Finkler
8. Jonathan Bru
9. Marcos Flores
10. Archie Thompson
11. Marco Rojas
13. Diogo Ferreira
14. Billy Celeski
15. Sam Gallagher
16. Theo Markelis
17. Jimmy Jeggo
23. Adrian Leijer (C)
26. Andrew Nabbout
39. Nathan Coe(Gk)

four to be omitted

Ins: Matthew Foschini, Sam Gallagher, Leigh Broxham, Theo Markelis (all promoted)

Out: Nil

Unavailable: Spase Dilevski (foot)

Wellington Phoenix v CC Mariners

Sun Nov 11 Westpac Stadium 2:30pm

By Joe Gallagher

Given the fortnight endured by Ricki Herbert and the Wellington Phoenix, they might have hoped for any other opposition this Sunday than the Central Coast Mariners.

Their promising start to the season is all but gone, brought down to earth by two – albeit polar opposites – defeats; the controversial 3-1 defeat in Adelaide followed by a lacklustre performance in which Wellington suffered a 3-2 defeat, the scoreline of which ought to be considered highly flattering for the Phoenix.

On the other hand, Central Coast appear to be finding their rhythm after a record-breaking 7-2 thrashing of Sydney FC last Saturday night. They sit second, and could rise to first by weekend's end.

Striker Danny McBreen, who shares the lead of the Golden Boot standings, and newly named Socceroos Tom Rogic and Mat Ryan headline a team that will simply be brimming with confidence.

This confidence will come from the knowledge that Wellington has been a happy hunting ground for the Mariners in recent years. Central Coast has won on their past three trips to New Zealand having only lost to the Phoenix once in their previous six meetings. They were also one of only two teams to clean-sweep the New Zealand outfit last term, and will have fond memories of Westpac Stadium having wrapped up the Minor Premiership in Wellington on the final day of last season.

Herbert and the Phoenix will seem familiar for New Zealand international Michael McGlinchey, who has excelled in midfield for Central Coast this season. McGlinchey, along with Glen Moss, Mark Paston, Tony Lochhead, Leo Bertos, Ben Sigmund and Jeremy Brockie, has been selected in Herbert's national team for the midweek fixture with China. How Graham Arnold and Ricki Herbert manage the effect of fatigue upon their internationals remains to be seen. The nine will make three appearances in just under a week.

The home side's stuttering start to the season is reflected in their defensive inconsistency; no central defensive pairing has played two consecutive games for Wellington this season due to illness, injury, suspension or international duty. On Sunday Herbert will have Ben Sigmund back to partner Andrew Durante in the heart of a defence that looked uncharacteristically shaky in Victoria.

Perhaps the only positive to take from that match were the goals of Jeremy Brockie – whose brace added respectability to the scoreline, at least. Brockie's extravagant brace, and the free-scoring Stein Huysegems will again threaten up front for Herbert.

But it's at the back where they're struggling of late – six goals conceded in two matches is barely the miserly return the Yellow Fever have come to expect of the Phoenix, and is an area which might well determine the victor on Sunday.

The Mariners, on the other hand, will be keen to continue a rich vein of form which has seen Graham Arnold's proclamation of their notoriously low-profile well and truly shattered.

In a game which has traditionally been low scoring, the game's first goal might well prove to be its winner.

Kiss of Death
Phoenix 1-0 Mariners

Phoenix Line Up

1. Mark Paston (GK)
2. Manny Muscat
3. Tony Lochhead
5. Michael Boxall
6. Alex Smith
7. Leo Bertos
8. Paul Ifill
9. Benjamin Totori
10. Stein Huysegems
11. Jeremy Brockie
12. Tyler Boyd
16. Louis Fenton
17. Vince Lia
18. Ben Sigmund
20. Glen Moss (GK)
22. Andrew Durante (C)
28. Ricardo Clarke

two to be omitted

Ins: Ben Sigmund (returns from suspension), Ricardo Clarke (promoted).

Outs: Nil.

Unavailable: Lucas Pantelis (knee injury - indefinite), Mirjan Pavlovic (medical condition – indefinite), Dani Sanchez (knee injury – 3

Mariners Line Up

1. Mathew Ryan (Gk)
2. Daniel McBreen
3. Joshua Rose
4. Pedj Bojic
5. Zachary Anderson
6. Patrick Zwaanswijk
7. John Hutchinson (c)
8. Adriano Pellegrino
9. Bernie Ibini
10. Tomas Rogic
11. Oliver Bozanic
12. Troy Hearfield
13. Brent Griffiths
14. Michael McGlinchey
15. Brad McDonald
16. Trent Sainsbury
17. Anthony Caceres
18. Nick Montgomery
19. Mitchell Duke
20. Justin Pasfield (Gk)
21. Mile Sterjovski
23. Adam Kwasnik

seven to be omitted

In: 8. Adriano Pellegrino, 11. Oliver Bozanic, 13. Brent Griffiths, 15. Brad McDonald, 17. Anthony Caceres, 19. Mitchell Duke, 23. Adam Kwasnik

Out: Nil
Unavailable: 22. James Oates (Ankle – 2 months)

Adelaide United v Perth Glory

Sun Nov 11 Hindmarsh Stadium 5:00pm

Adelaide Utd Line Up

1.Eugene Galekovic (gk) (c)
2.Osama Malik
3.Nigel Boogaard
5.Iain Fyfe
6.Cassio
8.Marcelo Carrusca
9.Sergio van Dijk
10.Dario Vidosic
11.Bruce Djite
12.Antony Golec
14.Cameron Watson
16.Daniel Bowles
17.Iain Ramsay
19.Jake Barker-Daish
21.Jeronimo Neumann
22.Fabio Ferreira
23.Evan Kostopoulos
30.John Hall (gk)
three to be omitted

Ins: Cassio (returns from illness), Jake Barker-Daish (promoted), Evan Kostopoulos (promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: Jon McKain (leg – under review), Paul Izzo (gk) (international duty)

By Andrew Bishara

Adelaide welcome Glory in first versus third clash

After five rounds in the league, not many would have thought that last season's second-bottom team would be topping the table. But after four wins out of five, Adelaide United under favourite son, John Kosmina is setting the benchmark for the rest of the league.

If there was one game in which Adelaide's resolve and credentials would be tested was last weekend against the Brisbane Roar. And the South Australians triumphed over the reigning champions in typical United fashion: defensive, resolute and clinical.

Dario Vidosic's third minute free kick set the tone for the game. Once ahead, Adelaide rarely threatened afterwards, sitting back, allowing Brisbane to let play it around, defend their lead, then hit them on the break. The performance highlighted the style and grit of Adelaide under Kosmina's first reign in charge all those years ago. Sit deep, snatch the lead, hold on it and play the counterattack.

From the opening day against Newcastle, Adelaide has followed their formula and it has worked (with their only loss coming against Melbourne Victory, where they also went ahead). They took the lead against Newcastle, Brisbane and Western Sydney, sat back and took the points. Only Wellington took the lead before Adelaide bounced back in the second half to get the 3-1 win (with a few controversial decisions going their way)

That game also showed that when needed, United can unleash the attacking prowess the team has in players such as Jeronimo-Neumann, Bruce Djite, Iain Ramsay and Vidosic. This week, they face another tough test with last season's runners-up Perth Glory arriving at Hindmarsh.

The biggest news surrounding Glory this week is the potential signing of Socceroo and former Melbourne Victory boy, Harry Kewell. The latest rumours indicate that Perth owner Tony Sage is in the talks with Kewell over a short-term contract. His addition to the team would add a certain spark (both on and off the pitch) for the Glory.

The Glory were under the pump against Newcastle last weekend, before they came out on top in a thrilling 3-2 win. Coach Ian Ferguson has made Perth a combative unit: strong in the back and good in possession. Last season, they surprised many by making it to the Grand Final with that dogged English determination to play to the last minute.

Again, this season they have made life difficult for their opponents and currently sit third on the table. What's more appealing is that Perth has a stellar record in Hindmarsh Stadium. They have won their last two games there, and have beaten Adelaide four out of the last five.

With the season picking up the pace and both Adelaide and Perth having full teams ahead of this clash, expect a tight encounter. Both teams are looking to consolidate their position on the ladder and break away from the rest of the group. With the gap between first and seventh only six points, every game is crucial and a springboard for more points. This is another important game.

Kiss of Death
Adelaide Utd 2-2 Glory

Glory Line Up

1.Danny Vukovic (gk)
3.Bas van den Brink
4.Billy Mehmet
5.Steve Pantelidis
6.Nick Ward
7.Jacob Burns (c)
8.Dean Heffernan
9.Shane Smeltz
10.Liam Miller
11.Adrian Zahra
13.Travis Dodd
14.Steven McGarry
15.Brandon O'Neill
17.Chris Harold
18.Jesse Makarounas
19.Josh Risdon
21.Scott Jamieson
22.Ndumba Makeche
23.Michael Thwaite
30 Lewis Italiano (gk)
five to be omitted

Ins: 5.Steve Pantelidis (returns from suspension), 9.Shane Smeltz (returns from injury), 15.Bradon O'Neill, 22.Ndumba Makeche (both promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 16.Evan Berger (hamstring – TBA)

Renewed sense of optimism sweeping through the A-League

A-League Rewind

By Robert Di Fabio

There could be many adjectives used to describe round five of the A-League, such was the football on display. For fans, it was certainly a pulsating spectacle, from the Wanderers' inaugural feat on home soil, to Victory's five-goal thriller on Melbourne Cup Eve. The entertainment on show could have comfortably rivalled any competition around the globe.

Following the five fixtures, an incredible 23 goals were amassed – nine alone in Central Coast's demolition of Sydney FC. In football, goals don't necessarily equal excitement, however last weekend was certainly one to remember.

A renewed sense of optimism appears to be searing through the league, with both crowd attendances and television rating escalating to epic proportions. For only the second time in the competition's seven-year history, the average TV audience for each A-League game in a single-round reached 100,000 viewers – only surpassed by the opening round of this season, where an accumulative 541,000 tuned into their TV boxes.

And again, fans turned through the turnstiles in impressive fashion. Last round, the average crowd was a little over 15,000 – an impressive figure, with no signs of slowing down in the coming weeks.

No doubt, the A-League is converting many people, from general sport fans, into regular weekly viewers. It may still be a work-in-progress, but the competition is slowly, but surely heading in the right direction.

There's reason to feel buoyant; the product on the pitch is delivering a fluent, enjoyable package for everyone involved. Unlike the opening years of the A-League's inceptions – where game-structures were somewhat one-dimensional and lacked sophistication – clubs now have a vision on how they want to play their football. We've seen Brisbane's groundbreaking philosophy throughout their two-championship winning seasons, and now we're seeing other clubs adopt their own unique ethos'.

The league's development is evident; the arrival of Western Sydney Wanderers has been a breath of fresh air – following the ugly demise of Gold Coast United, owned by billionaire mining tycoon Clive Palmer. Expansion has a rather fruitless history in the A-League, although credit must be given, where credit is due. Football Federation Australia has done a magnificent job in getting this club successfully up and running, in such a small frame of time. Proactive engagement with the local communities was completed in an astute manner, allowing the club's newly adopted fans the opportunity to set its pathway.

Football fans are flocking to the A-league in droves and attendance records are sure to be broken. Photo: BEN NEVILLE

A potent 10-team competition is the FFA's primary priority. Stability is the key to long-term success. The imminent TV deal, set to be unveiled this month, will noticeably encompass a free-to-air component on SBS. The new deal will see Fox Sports cover each A-League game live, with SBS televising one-game per round. The contract is believed to be around $160 million over a four-year period – double the current $19 million per year. It's a big tick for Australian football. Ben Buckley has had his fair share of critics during his tenure as FFA CEO; however he must be applauded for this tremendous outcome.

Additionally, the signatures of the big-name marquees have been a welcome addition. Last season, we witnessed Socceroo luminary Harry Kewell light up the competition on and off the field, despite his club's tumultuous season. This campaign, Italian idol Alessandro Del Piero and former England international Emile Heskey are making headlines, domestically and abroad – their presence has been exemplary, and certainly enhanced football's image within the Australian domestic competition.

Their arrivals have been an enormous boost for the code, undoubtedly attracting a wider audience this current season. Importantly though, their influence isn't limited to the grandstands. On the pitch, manifestly they have been influential figures, often raising the bar in standard and theatre. The glut of media attention, both here and overseas, has been overwhelming beyond our wildest imaginations. The positive vibe engulfing the A-League could very well be the launching-pad for a feast of star signings in the near future.

Round six delivers some enticing encounters; however it's difficult to go past Saturday night's blockbuster between traditional rivals Sydney and Victory – a massive game on the football calendar. Both these sides have a point to prove. The Sky Blues will be seeking redemption after its humiliating five-goal trouncing to the Mariners last weekend, while the Navy Blues will aspire to keep its winning momentum across the border, after an imposing 70-minute display against the Phoenix on Monday night. May the best team triumph.

Follow Robert on Twitter @ RobertDiFabio

MELBOURNE HEART FC

SEASON 2012/13

PHOTO: ROBERT CIANFLONE / GETTY IMAGES / COURTESY MELBOURNE HEART FC

Back Row (L-R): Tom Reddin (High Performance Manager), Jonatan Germano, Mate Dugandzic, GolGol Mebrahtu, David Vrankovic, Michael Marrone, Ben Garuccio, Belinda Pacella (Physio).
Middle (L-R): Joey Didulica (NYL GK Coach), Patrick Gerhardt, Josip Tadic, Jason Hoffman, Clint Bolton, Andrew Redmayne, Steven Gray, Nick Kalmar, Dylan Macallister, Peter Zois (Goalkeeping Coach).
Front (L-R): David Williams, Simon Colosimo, Matt Thompson, Joe Palatsides (NYL Coach), John Aloisi (Head Coach), Hayden Foxe (Assistant Coach), Fred, Richard Garcia, Aziz Behich.

Boo's World

SUMMER SERIES

By Mark Boric

An injury meant Alessandro Del Piero was able to make an early start to his Spring Carnival appearances, missing Sydney FC's spanking at the hands of Central Coast Mariners on Saturday. So the chance to play in a stadium with two giant inflatable sauce bottles behind a goal with a beach on the other side of the road beyond the perimeter fence for the first time in his illustrious career passed him by.

Sydney's defence was woeful, and after missing plenty of chances against Wellington Phoenix on Monday one would think Archie Thompson will be able to find the back of the net against them this week. It's the kind of position he hasn't been in since The Glory Days of Oceania.

Maybe Sydney can turn their form around, like the Futsalroos did at the World Cup to beat Mexico 3-1 after opening with a heavy defeat to Italy. It was a spirited, come from behind effort that sets up a great game against Argentina.

Brisbane fell to a second 0-1 loss in as many outings, their inability to breach packed defences showing that Ange Postecoglu may be missed a little more than their cocky fans were perpared to admit a few weeks ago. If only Adelaide could have ground out results like that in the Asian Champions League they would have gotten through Tashkent.

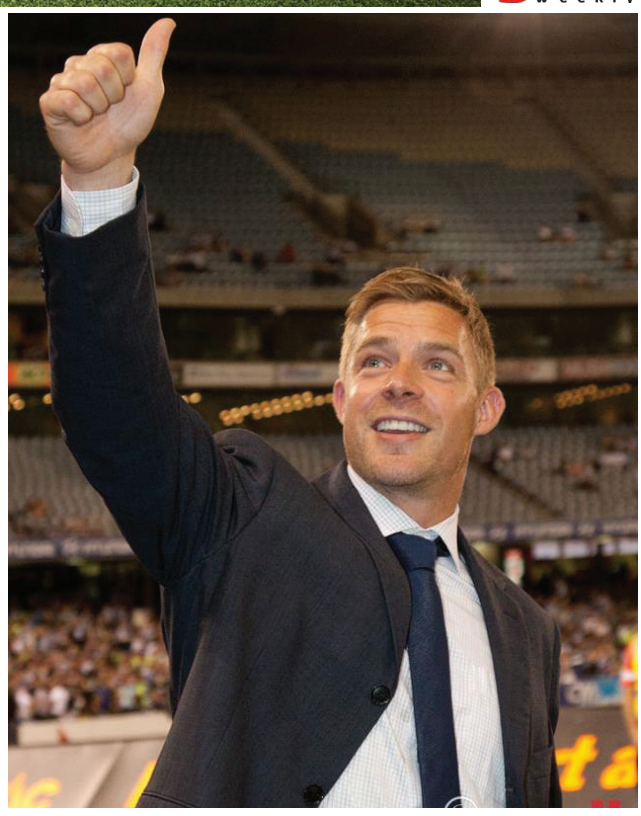
No suprise to see Adam Federici on the bench for Reading against Queens Park Rangers, he could probably do with the rest after picking up the ball out of the back of the net so much last week. There have been some crazy scorelines of late, we can't be far away from someone reaching double figures again.

In the week Israel Folau quit the Greater Western Sydney Giants for a possible return to rugby league, is male model Harry Kewell looking at changing occupations and becoming a footballer? Rumours still persist.

On the topic of sagas, the next big thing will be the outcome of the rocket flare launched at the VPL Grand Final and the possible penalties handed out to Dandenong Thunder. This will drag on and on, and as with Kewell the rumours are spreading like wildfire.

Referee Mark Clattenburg is still on the sidelines whilst allegations of racial abuse made by Chelsea players are investigated. Couldn't they let him ref in the Serbian League whilst the inquiry continues?

Back to the Spring Carnival where trainer John Thompson wept during a presentation ceremony as he revealed the hard times that had befallen the Patinack Farm stables including them having run out of horse feed on occasion. With Nathan Tinkler still enduring cash flow issues, the moral of the story for Newcastle Jets players is to keep their freezers well stocked.



After two stints and two A-League championship medals at Melbourne Victory, Daniel Allsopp salutes the crowd at Etihad on Monday night and bids farewell to an illustrious career.
Photo: ANITA MILAS

BOOTS 'N ALL

Roger Sleeman

Arnie for Socceroo job? He ticks all the boxes and is actually home grown.
Photo: TIM SIZE

Alessandro Del Piero and Harry Kewell lap it up in the Lavazza marquee at the Melbourne Cup. Perth Glory owner Tony Sage was also in attendance and rumours are rife that Kewell may well head West for a guest stint.

HISTORY REPEATS

Some people just never learn and in the case of Brenton Speed, the Fox commentator, we should ask the following question; when is he going to stop describing every movement of the ball forward as a delivery?

Also his frequent use of the rugby league jargon "up and under", in reference to a high ball generally executed by a goalkeeper or defender clearing the ball, and hold up man instead of target man, is gut wrenching .

In last week's clash between the Wanderers and Melbourne Heart he asked Robbie Slater a couple of times if Joey Gibbs should retain his spot when the Croatian, Kresinger, returns to the squad after his injury.

Gibbs performed brilliantly in the 1-0 away win to the Brisbane Roar and played a major part in the win against the Heart, setting up the first vital goal for Mark Bridge.

I t would be nothing short of a shock selection if Gibbs was replaced by Kresinger who has been less than impressive in his A-League appearances to date.

I suggest if Speed is serious about his commentary he should listen to a few tapes of the famous English commentators, John Moxon and Barry Davis.

There are also Martin Tyler, Adrian Healey and Paul Dempsey amongst others who know football backwards and made commentary sound like an art form.

SAD DAY FOR SYDNEY FC

It would be easy to kick the Sydney FC squad and coach Ian Crook in the guts for the embarrassing defeat against the Mariners.

However, if ever the team had any chance to redeem itself, the perfect time will be against Melbourne Victory this weekend.

The Victory may have dominated in its 3-2 win against the Phoenix but this was by far the worst display by the Kiwi outfit during their time in the A-League.

Ricki Herbert always has his team well organised in the back with the midfield always remaining compact.

Archie Thomson looked like a greyhound on the night with acres of space to run into and the Latin duo, Flores and Finkler, must have believed Christmas had arrived early as they had a field day in midfield for the first time this season.

With the return of Griffiths and Bosschaart, I'm predicting a close encounter in the east coast derby.

HATS OFF TO ARNIE

Maybe Sydney had an off day last weekend but I have been saying for the last three seasons that the Mariners play the most direct and effective football in the A-League.

Players are always in support whether it is in wide positions or when building attacks from the defensive third where Josh Rose and Pedj Bojic are in outstanding form again.

However, it's the movement off the ball in advanced positions that is the major highlight of their play where McGlinchey and Rogic are so prominent.

Just imagine if Matt Simon had been playing against Sydney because the score may have gone into double figures.

We talk about future national coaches after Osieck and there is no doubt we should be looking at a local coach because I firmly believe people like Arnold offer far more than unknown overseas coaches. Certainly, Arnold has learnt much since his stints in the national coaching setup and I believe we would've performed much better in the current World Cup campaign if he been at the helm.

MEMORY LAPSE OR SIMPLE OVERSIGHT?

It was interesting to hear Mike Cockerill's comments about Marco Rojas during Victory's annihilation of the Phoenix last Monday.

Cockerill quoted Ange Postecoglou as saying the young All White could go anywhere in the game but also added New Zealand traditionally produced tall timber players and not quick and lithe performers like Rojas and Fenton.

He could only recall the nuggety and fearless, tearaway flanker Michael McGarry ,who played for the All Whites in 54 internationals.

You could hardly call Wynton Rufer, Steve Woodin, Brian Turner, Grant Turner Duncan Cole, Vaughan Coveny and Chris Killen who are legends in NZ football history as prototypes of their All Black counterparts.

There is no doubt Rojas is a great young talent but has a long way to go to emulate the deeds of these famous NZ footballers.

WHERE IS BERISHA?

In last Sunday's Daily Telegraph, Robbie Slater gave ratings out of 10 for the imports Del Piero, Heskey, Ono, Geronimo and Broich but surprisingly didn't include Berisha Besart.

Is there some hidden message in this omission or are we to believe that Berisha, despite his amazing record in the last two seasons, was undeserving of a rating amongst this array of superstars.

With the Roar struggling at the moment to score goals, it's possible that Berisha and also Broich who is also underperforming, may have their eyes on greener pastures like Asia where they can command much higher paydays than their current situation.

Only time will tell!!

WILD ABOUT HARRY

With the rumours of Perth Glory owner, Tony Sage, having a chance meeting with Harry Kewell at the Melbourne Cup ,will we be seeing Kewell play this season in the A-League?

The talk was that Kewell would play 10 matches in a guest stint which would obviously suit the player but how much could he really contribute to the team after such a long layoff with injury after last season and no playing time.

It seems that in our game we often rely on gimmicks, rather than proven performance to capture the public's imagination.

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Heart's Late Winner Silences Roar At The Death

By Daniel Quinn

After Round 3 of the National Youth League the Melbourne Victory and the Central Mariners are the only sides with one-hundred percent records, while the AIS and Sydney FC are still yet to get off the mark from their two games, as plenty of youngsters shined.

Round 3 got under way with the **Melbourne Victory** hitting seven past the **AIS** on Saturday afternoon in the 7-1 win.

Former Bayern Munich youngster Julius Davies got the scoring under way with a quick fire brace, firstly win a stunning free-kick, before finishing nicely from the edge of the box.

Theo Markelis added the third from an acute angle, but just before the break Bright Appiah got one back trickling the ball over the line after beating Lawrence Thomas.

Early in the second-half Isaka Cernak headed in a fourth at the back post, before Luke O'Dea curled a fifth from distance.

Victory completed the demolishing as Luc Jeggo and Andrew Nabbout added a sixth and seventh with still 20 minutes on the clock.

Melbourne Heart have snatched the three points in the third minute of stoppage time with an Andrew Cartanos strike in the 2-1 defeat over **Brisbane Roar** on Saturday.

Heart got off to a flyer as Nicholas Epifano played a lovely through ball to Zac Walker who curled the opener in just the first minute.

It's handshakes and smiles all around Heart players congratulate Andrew Cartanos for his finish. Photo: LIVE PIXEL

Andrew Cartanos slips one past Roar keeper to seal the match for Heart. Photo: LIVE PIXEL

But Brisbane equalised through the impressive Korean Dong-Hyun Do on 22 minutes as the winger skinned Jeremy Walker before slotting from a tight angle.

But in the third minute of stoppage time substitute Andrew Cartanos went on a marauding run down the left before sliding the ball into the net to give Heart their second win in three games.

The **Western Sydney Wanderers** have come from behind in the 2-2 draw with **Adelaide United** as both sides shared the spoils.

On 19 minutes Zenon Caravella'a thunderbolt strike hit the upright, but Evan Kostopoulos followed up putting away the opener.

Kostopoulos doubled the Reds advantage with his second after some great build up work by Awer Mabil.

But Zak Elrich cut the deficit to one chesting before neatly finishing on 68 minutes.

With 14 minutes left Jake McGing equalised from close range to ensure the Wanderers at least took a point.

The **Central Coast Mariners** maintained their one hundred percent record in the NYL with a 4-2 win over **Sydney FC** on Sunday.

Central Coast pounced on an early mistake by Sydney 'keeper Anthony Bouzanis with Oliver Bozanic capitalizing.

Adam Kwasnik made it 2-0 on 25 minutes nodding in an Adrian Pellegrino corner, before Sydney got one back through a Peter Triantis rocket.

Just before the break Central Coast added a third as a deflected Kieren Paull cross was put into his own net by Sydney's Aaron Calver.

Shortly after the resumption Kwasnik scored his brace, before Triantis too completed his brace slotting home from the penalty spot.

The **Newcastle Jets** recorded their first win of the season with a 3-2 away win over **Perth Glory** on Sunday.

Kale Bradbery opened the scoring from the spot, after Matthew Davies fouled Stevan Ilic inside the box.

But on the half hour mark the Glory equalised as Japanese winger Ryo Nagai fired a Chris Harold header past Jets 'keeper Matthew Nash.

After both sides wasted plenty of chances Bradbery found his second as the winger slid past Glory substitute 'keeper Devon Spence.

Substitute Radovan Pavicevic added a late third, before Jesse Makarounas found a stoppage time consolidation to wrap up the scoring.

Round 3 Results

Central Coast Mariner: 4 *(Oliver Bozanic 3, Adam Kwasnik 25, 56, Aaron Calver 45og)*
Sydney FC 2: *(Peter Trinatis 26, 72p)*

Western Sydney Wanderers 2 *(Elrich 68, McGing 76)*
Adelaide United 2 *(Kostopoulos 19, 36)*

Melbourne Heart 2 *(Walker 1, Cartanos 93)*
Brisbane Roar 1 *(Do 22)*

AIS 1 *(Appiah 45+2)*
Victory 7 *(Davies 16, 19, Markelis 36, Cernak 50, O'Dea 55, Jeggo 71, Nabbout 72)*

Perth Glory: 2 *(Nagai 30', Makarounas 90 +3')*
Newcastle Jets: 3 *(Bradbery (pen) 10', 88' Pavicevic 90')*

NYL Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	P
1 Melbourne Victory	3	3	0	0	11	1	10	9
2 CC Mariners	3	3	0	0	8	3	5	9
3 Melbourne Heart	3	2	0	1	5	3	2	6
4 Adelaide United	3	1	1	1	7	6	1	4
5 Newcastle Jets	3	1	1	1	6	6	0	4
6 Perth Glory	3	1	0	2	7	7	0	3
7 Brisbane Roar	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3
8 W Syd Wanderers	3	0	2	1	4	6	-2	2
9 Sydney FC	2	0	0	2	4	8	-6	0
10 AIS	2	0	0	2	2	12	-10	0

Round 4 Fixtures

Brisbane Roar v AIS
Saturday 10 November KO 2:00 PM
Goodwin Park, Yeronga

Melbourne Heart v Perth Glory
Saturday 10 November KO 3:00 PM
John Cain Memorial Reserve, Thornbury

Adelaide United v CC Mariners
Saturday 10 November KO 5:00 PM
Burton Park

Sydney FC v Newcastle Jets
Sunday 11 November KO 2:00 PM
Leichhardt Oval

Western Sydney v Melbourne Victory
Sunday 11 November KO 4:45 PM
Campbelltown Stadium

All KO times ae AEDT

Glory Streak Ends; Victory Ground Jets

By FFA

Champions Canberra United and Sydney FC stormed to the top of the Westfield W-League thanks to impressive comeback wins, with Perth Glory knocked off the summit after losing their unbeaten record.

Canberra United have a slim hold on top spot thanks to a superior goal difference although they were in danger of losing their lengthy unbeaten record against a brave Adelaide.

The Lady Reds were 1-0 up until midway through the second half thanks to Racheal Quigley's effort, only for United to finish strongly and end Adelaide's hopes of a famous win.

Caitlin Cooper finally broke Adelaide's resistance with captain Ellie Brush and substitute Sam Wood completing a 12-minute three-goal burst.

Sydney FC's visit to rivals Brisbane Roar produced a carbon copy scenario as the Sky Blues came from a goal down to win by the same score line.

Brisbane Roar struggled in attack without the injured Tameka Butt but, nevertheless took the lead against the run of play through Lana Harch.

However, the visitors struck back strongly with Sam Kerr, Emma Kete and Ellyse Perry all hitting the net as the Sky Blues took a two-goal lead just past the hour mark.

At the other end of the table, Melbourne Victory and Western Sydney Wanderers ground out deserved wins over Newcastle Jets and Perth Glory respectively.

The Victory overcame a tough start to the season to claim their maiden win, with Rebekah Stott the unlikely goal scorer just prior to the half-time whistle.

The visiting Jets were hamstrung on their trip to Geelong with key midfielder Emily van Egmond missing with injury and defender Stacey Day sent off in the latter stages.

Rebekah Stott (third from left) shares the joy with her Victory team-mates after scoring on the stroke of half time. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Jets keeper Eliza Campbell blocks Jessica McDonald's shot at goal. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

The appearance of Tara Andrews off the bench injected some vigour into the Jets' attack, though they ultimately finished the game scoreless.

Victory Head Coach Mike Mulvey was very pleased with the performance and is optimistic about the upcoming fixtures.

"The win was important today in terms of getting that extra bit of confidence, but I think everyone can see that our intentions are to play football and to create chances," he said.

"We are now on an upward spiral, and we have momentum. Once you build momentum, it becomes irresistible."

Mulvey also praised his team's ability to work as a cohesive unit.

"We've got a saying: 'It's hard work out there so work hard'. If you have that work ethic and a style of play along with the individual qualities of the players and you put that collective effort together, you can achieve something," he said.

"Whenever you are one nil up you are always screaming out for that second goal. It didn't quite come so we lived on our nerves a bit but that's ok because we got the desired outcome and it's onward and upward from here."

In was a historic day for Western Sydney Wanderers who claimed their first-ever Westfield W-League win with a 2-0 score line against the previously unbeaten Glory.

Player of the match Trudy Camilleri scored in each half as the Wanderers were deserving victors over the last remaining team with a perfect record.

SFC celebrate Elyse Perry's goal to put the icing on the cake and make it 3-1 against the Roar. Photo: KEITH EIGELAND

Round 4 Results

Canberra United 3 *(Caitlin Cooper 63, Ellie Brush 78, Samantha Wood 84)*
Adelaide United 1 *(Racheal Quigley38)*

Brisbane Roar 1 *(Lana Harch 42')*
Sydney FC 3 *(Sam Kerr 46', Emma Kete 57', Ellyse Perry 62')*

Western Sydney Wanderers 2 *(Camilleri 43, 61)*
Perth Glory 0

Melbourne Victory 1 *(Stott 45+2)*
Newcastle Jets 0

W-League Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	P
1 Canberra United	4	3	1	0	11	2	9	10
2 Sydney FC	4	3	1	0	10	5	5	10
3 WS Wanderers FC	4	2	0	2	7	5	2	6
4 Perth Glory	4	2	0	2	4	5	-1	6
5 Melbourne Victory	4	2	0	2	2	3	-1	6
6 Brisbane Roar	4	1	1	2	1	6	-5	4
7 Adelaide United	4	1	0	3	7	11	-4	3
8 Newcastle Jets	4	0	1	3	3	10	-7	1

Round 5 Fixtures

Sat 10 Nov KO 1:30pm
Adelaide United Vs Brisbane Roar
Hindmarsh Stadium

Sat 10 Nov KO 4:30pm
Newcastle Jets Vs Perth Glory
Wanderers Oval

Sun 11 Nov KO 2:00pm
WS Wanderers FC Vs Canberra Utd
Campbelltown Stadium

Sun 11 Nov KO 4:45pm
Sydney FC Vs Melbourne Victory
Leichhardt Oval, Sydney

Couch Potato

* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT

SBS

SBS ONE
Sunday November 11th, 2012
10:30 am Football Asia
11:00 am UEFA Champions League Magazine

Monday November 12th, 2012
11:00 pm The World Game

Thursday November 15th, 2012
6:15 am Football International: Netherlands v Germany - *Live from the Amsterdam Arena, Amsterdam, Netherlands*

SBS TWO
Monday November 12th
9:30 pm The World Game

Friday November 16th
8:55 pm FIFA Futsal World Cup 2012: Semi-Final 1 - Live from Bangkok, Futsal Arena, Bangkok, Thailand

10:25 pm FIFA Futsal World Cup 2012: Semi-Final 2 - Live from Bangkok, Futsal Arena, Bangkok, Thailand.

one

Friday 9th Nov
02:30 am The Serie A Highlights Show
03:00 am Arsenal TV
08:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights

Saturday 10th Nov
05:30 am The Serie A Highlights Show

Sunday 11th Nov
06:00 am Arsenal TV

Monday 12th Nov
03:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights
12:30 pm The Serie A Highlights Show

Tuesday 13th Nov
03:00 am Arsenal TV

Thursday 15th Nov
02:00 am Magic Of The FA Cup
03:00 am Bundesliga
05:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights

SETANTA SPORTS

FRIDAY 9TH NOVEMBER
UEFA Europa League **Anzhi v Liverpool** *4:55am LIVE*
UEFA Europa League **Tottenham v Maribor** *7:00am LIVE*
UEFA Europa League **Brugge v Newcastle** *9:00am 1st Airing*
UEFA Europa League **Lazio v Panathinaikos** *10:50am 1st Airing*
UEFA Europa League Highlights *12:40pm 1st Airing*
Copa Sudamericana Quarter-Final 2nd Leg **Universidad Catolica v Independiente** *1:35pm 1st Airing*
Bundesliga Preview Show *8:00pm 1st Airing*

SATURDAY 10TH NOVEMBER
Npower Championship **Middlesbrough v Sheff Weds** *6:40am LIVE*
Bundesliga **Mainz v Nuremburg** *8:45am 1st Airing*
Blue Square Premier **Alfreton v Newport** *3:15pm 1st Airing*
Copa Sudamericana *Quarter-Final 2nd Leg Highlights 7:00pm 1st Airing*
Npower Championship **Leicester v Nottm Forest** *11:40pm LIVE*

SUNDAY 11TH NOVEMBER
Bundesliga **Bayern v Frankfurt** *6:15am 1st Airing*
Bundesliga **Augsburg v Dortmund** *8:05am 1st Airing*
SPL **Inverness v Hearts 9**:*55am 1st Airing*
Eredivisie **Vitesse v Twente** *10:25pm LIVE*

MONDAY 12TH NOVEMBER
Bundesliga **Wolfsburg v Leverkusen** *1:25am LIVE*
Bundesliga **Stuttgart v Hannover** *3:25am LIVE*
Primera Division *Teams TBC 5:10am LIVE*
SPL **Hibernian v Dundee United** *7:30am 1st Airing*
Primera Division *Teams TBC 9:10am LIVE*
Eredivisie **PEC v Ajax** *11:40am 1st Airing*
Eredivisie **PSV v Heereneveen** *3:20pm 1st Airing*
Bundesliga Highlights *7:00pm 1st Airing*

TUESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER
Npower Championship Round 16 Highlights *7:00pm 1st Airing*
SPL Highlights *7:30pm 1st Airing*
Eredivisie Highlights *8:00pm 1st Airing*

WEDNESDAY 14TH NOVEMBER
Primera Division *Teams TBC 9:10am LIVE*

THURSDAY 15TH NOVEMBER
Blue Square Premier **Mansfield v Luton** *6:30am LIVE*
Primera Division *Teams TBC 9:10am LIVE*

FRIDAY 16TH NOVEMBER
Bundesliga Preview Show *7:00pm 1st Airing*

FOX SPORTS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE LIVE
Times listed are 7 minutes prior to kick-offs.

English Premier League
Sun Nov 11 **Arsenal v Fulham**
1.53 am Fox 1
Sun Nov 11 **Everton v Sunderland**
1.53 am Fox 2
Sun Nov 11 **Reading v Norwich**
1.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Nov 11 **Southampton v Swansea**
1.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Nov 11 **Stoke v QPR**
1.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Nov 11 **Wigan v West Brom**
1.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Nov 11 **Aston Villa v Manchester United**
4.23 am Fox 1
Mon Nov 12 **Manchester City v Tottenham**
12.23 am Fox 1
Mon Nov 12 **Newcastle v West Ham**
1.53 am Fox 3
Mon Nov 12 **Chelsea v Liverpool**
2.53 am Fox 1

Hyundai A-League
All games LIVE

Fri Nov 9 **Melbourne Heart v Brisbane Roar**
7.30 pm Fox 1
Sat Nov 10 **Western Sydney v Newcastle**
5.30 pm Fox 1
Sat Nov 10 **Sydney FC v Melbourne Victory**
7.45 pm Fox 1
Sun Nov 11 **Wellington v Central Coast**
2.30 pm Fox 1
Sun Nov 11 **Adelaide Utd v Perth Glory**
5.00 pm Fox 1

FOX SPORTS FC
Every Tuesday 8.30 pm

Asian Champions League Final
Ulsan Hyundai v Al Ahli
Saturday 10 November
9.30 pm Fox 3

International Friendly
Wednesday 14 November
Korea Republic v Australia
8.30 pm Fox 1

Round 06: ASK THE EXPERTS

THE VERDICT
Heart (1) Roar (2) Draw (5) - Wanderers (3) Jets (4) Draw (1) - Sydney (0) Victory (4) Draw (4) - Phoenix (3) Mariners (2) Draw (3) - Adelaide (5) Glory (0) Draw (3)

SANTO CILAURO 13
Draw
Wanderers
Draw
Phoenix
Adelaide
Last week: 3

CRAIG MACKENZIE 10
Draw
Newcastle Jets
Draw
Phoenix
Adelaide Utd
Last week: 4

EDDIE KRNCEVIC 08
Roar
Jets
Draw
Draw
Draw
Last week: 2

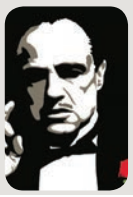
PETER KATHOLOS 09
Brisbane
Wanderers
Victory
Draw
Draw
Last week: 5

ROGER SLEEMAN 12
Brisbane
Jets
Draw
Mariners
Adelaide
Last week: 3

ANDY HARPER 10
Draw
Draw
Victory
Draw
Adelaide
Last week: 4

JOHN DOYLE 09
Heart
Jets
Victory
Mariners
Adelaide
Last week: 2

KISS OF DEATH 08
Draw
Wanderers
Victory
Phoenix
Draw
Last week: 2



It's A Dirty Ol' Business

LIONEL MESSI will aim to put the skids under Celtic tonight *(overnight)* — but the first Scottish team to beat them did it for REAL!

Hibs beat Barcelona 3-2 on their first game on Scottish soil in 1961 — but the winning goal was scored after the Easter Road side's penalty king Sammy Baird SOILED himself waiting to take it.

Bobby Kinloch eventually scored from the the kick after an 11-minute delay when ref Johannes Malka was assaulted by furious Barca players.

The game was in the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup — forerunner of the UEFA Cup — in season 1960-61. Kinloch, now 77, recalled: "We'd drawn the first game in the Nou Camp 4-4.

"We'd actually been 2-0 and 4-2 up but even though we'd drawn, we still came back feeling quite confident about the second game.

"It was a terrific occasion. There were 65,000 at Easter Road, which seems amazing nowadays. But you have to remember back then we used to get 40,000 when we played Clyde.

"It was 2-2 with five minutes to go and the German ref awarded us a penalty. Well, the Barcelona players went berserk. I don't know why — I remember the foul on Johnny MacLeod and it was a definite penalty.

"But the Spaniards were going nuts. They were pursuing this poor ref round the pitch and the police were on the park trying to restore order.

"I was actually sitting on the ball in the centre circle waiting for the fuss to die down when Sammy came up.

"Sammy took our penalties — but he said to me, 'Bobby, you'll have to take it, I'm sh*****g myself.'

"I told him not to worry, just to pick a corner and he'd be fine.

"But he said, 'No, Bobby you don't understand. I'm REALLY sh*****g myself.'

"Without being too graphic, the evidence was there for all to see.

"A few minutes later the fuss calmed down and I went up to take it. I never worried about taking penalties. I'd taken plenty before.

"I picked a spot inside the post. Fortunately that's where it went and we won 3-2 to go through."

But if Bobby expected a pat on the back from Hibs chairman Harry Swan at time-up, he was in for a shock.

He said: "We went back to the dressing-room feeling quite pleased with ourselves. We were through to the semi-finals, after all. But Harry Swan threw the dressing-room door open, made a bee-line for me, and gave me absolute dog's abuse.

"'Ya stupid b*****d,' he said. 'You've cost the club fortunes'.

"Apparently the directors had been rubbing their hands at the thought of the game ending in a draw.

"These were days before the away goals rule. If a European tie ended in a draw on aggregate, the clubs decided where the play-off would be.

"The Hibs board had already decided any third game would be in Barcelona — with the clubs dividing the gate money in two. My penalty cost us that money and Harry wasn't happy!

"But as it turned out when we played Roma in the semis we drew 2-2 at home, 3-3 in Rome and the tie went to a play-off — in Rome.

"So the club got their big payday after all! Mind you, we lost the play-off 6-0."

Kinloch's colourful career also included stints as an RAF airman, playing international football for Malaya and being involved in a shoot-out with Detroit gangsters while working as a policeman during a spell playing in the NASL.

But that Barcelona game from '61 came back to him when Hibs faced Barcelona at Murrayfield in a pre-season friendly four years ago.

He recalled: "Before that game I got an invite to go to the match because Barcelona said they wanted to make a presentation to Hibs before the game.

"They wanted to say sorry for being a*******s, basically!

"It took them nearly fifty years to say it, but at least they did, I suppose! The president gave me a trophy as an apology for their behaviour in the tie and I passed it on to Hibs. It's in one of the lounges at Easter Road now.

"They beat Hibs 6-0 that day and Lionel Messi played.

"Guys like him prove to me that if you're a good player, you can play in any era.

"The great ones who played in my day, like Jim Baxter and Gordon Smith, could play today.

"And Messi would've been the great player he is today back then."

- KENNY MacDONALD
The Scottish Sun

Bobby Kinloch scores for Hibs v Barcelona back in February 1961.
Photo: WORLD PRESS

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Merrick, Mehm give Stirts thumbs up

IS DAVID Stirton poised to join the list of players who have left Melbourne Victory only to make their mark elsewhere in the A-League?

Former Victory coaches Ernie Merrick and Mehmet Durakovic rate the 21-year-old striker and both should know given that Stirton trained under them for almost two years.

"David Stirton is a very good young striker," said Merrick.

"He played well for the Victory youth team whilst I was there and most importantly he scores goals and that is what every coach is looking for.

"He is at the stage where he has served an apprenticeship and he needs an opportunity at A-League level. I think he could do very well at the right club."

Durakovic was no less effusive in singing Stirton's praises.

"Without a shadow of doubt David's got one of the best left foots going around," he said.

"He's a tall, strong boy and he's probably a late maturer.

"I reckon if he can be more aggressive then he certainly can go all the way."

Melbourne-based Stirton has come off a Victorian Premier League season where his seven goals played a crucial role in Southern Stars staying in the league at their first attempt.

It's not easy for a young player to be successful in a side that fights and scraps every inch of the way to avoid relegation and Stirton acknowledges that fact.

"Being a new team just promoted from First Division I felt we often didn't go out to win but to avoid getting beat," said the quietly spoken youngster.

Stirton didn't play as much as he would have liked in his favoured striker's role and often had to track back as Stars concentrated on getting players behind the ball when the opposition was in possession.

"It was frustrating at times because I'd prefer to be used as an out-and-out striker.

"But I got used to playing out wide and I don't mind because you can have a go at defenders and if your other wide player comes forward you can get into the box and try and get on the end of something," he added.

He was one of three Stars players invited to FFV's prestigious Gold Medal night at Hawthorn's Leonda Restaurant last month, a different setting from a beer garden at St Kilda's Village Belle Hotel where he recently was acknowledged at Southern Stars' presentation night as leading scorer as well as winning the club's Young Player of the Year award.

He has told Southern Stars that he won't be lining up with them next season so apart from having to return the tailor-made suit provided by the club earlier this year the important question from his perspective now becomes what's next for this talented footballer.

Stirton's pedigree is impressive, indeed with the exception of his Victory stint, he has been the leading scorer at every club he's played and his CV includes spells at Oakleigh Cannons and Dandenong Thunder.

He's also trialled overseas with Scottish clubs Rangers and Kilmarnock. The Ibrox trial was shambolic at best and although Killie was keen for him to return Stirton was hell-bent on making his mark here.

"I think I came very close to getting a (senior) contract at Victory," he said.

For months he trained full-time with Merrick's senior squad and prior to Merrick's departure he was so keen to keep Stirton at the club that he offered him the paid job of being in charge of the kit.

"The problem there though was that there would be times when that job would stop me training with the first team and I wasn't keen on that," said Stirton.

During Durakovic's caretaker period at Victory, Ange Postecoglou at Brisbane Roar showed interest in taking Stirton north for a trial but never followed through.

When Durakovic was appointed head coach on a full-time basis he told Stirton that he wanted to keep him but that there were no contracts left as the senior list was full.

Durakovic wanted Stirton to spend one more year in the youth squad but the striker had other ideas.

Dean Hennessey had just taken Southern Stars to successive promotions and now the Turkish-backed club was playing with the big boys in the VPL.

Hennessey spoke to Stirton and explained how he saw him fitting in to Stars' set-up for the 2012 season and Stirton was impressed.

And although Hennessey, like Stirton, has recently left the club the coach retains the view that A-League outfits should look long and hard at what Stirton has to offer.

"I like to think that he's just had his breakthrough year as a pro in a sense," said Hennessey.

"I'm very reminded of Daniel Visovic who I had at Richmond in his first year in the VPL.

"I think the big thing for David now is to back it up. He needs to play week-in, week-out and he needs to keep scoring."

Hennessey and the Stirtons go way back. When Hennessey arrived here as a 17-year-old in 1982 he played against Stirton's father Iain, an ex-Rangers striker.

And when David Stirton was 10 he joined Hennessey and his famous football father Terry (ex-Nottingham Forest, Derby County and Welsh international) at the Derby County academy they had set up at Box Hill.

Terry Hennessey was in charge of the group involving Stirton and has always held him in high regard.

"Obviously I have a lot of respect for my dad's opinion and he just said to me from day one that David 'looks like a player' and he always thought that he was a big, big chance to make it," said Dean Hennessey.

"And quite frankly I see no reason why he can't kick on over here and overseas."

While Stirton's immediate future lies in the lap of the A-League gods it has to be said that it's remarkable that he is not at least part of a train-on squad where he can be scrutinised first-hand and a proper analysis made of what he has to offer.

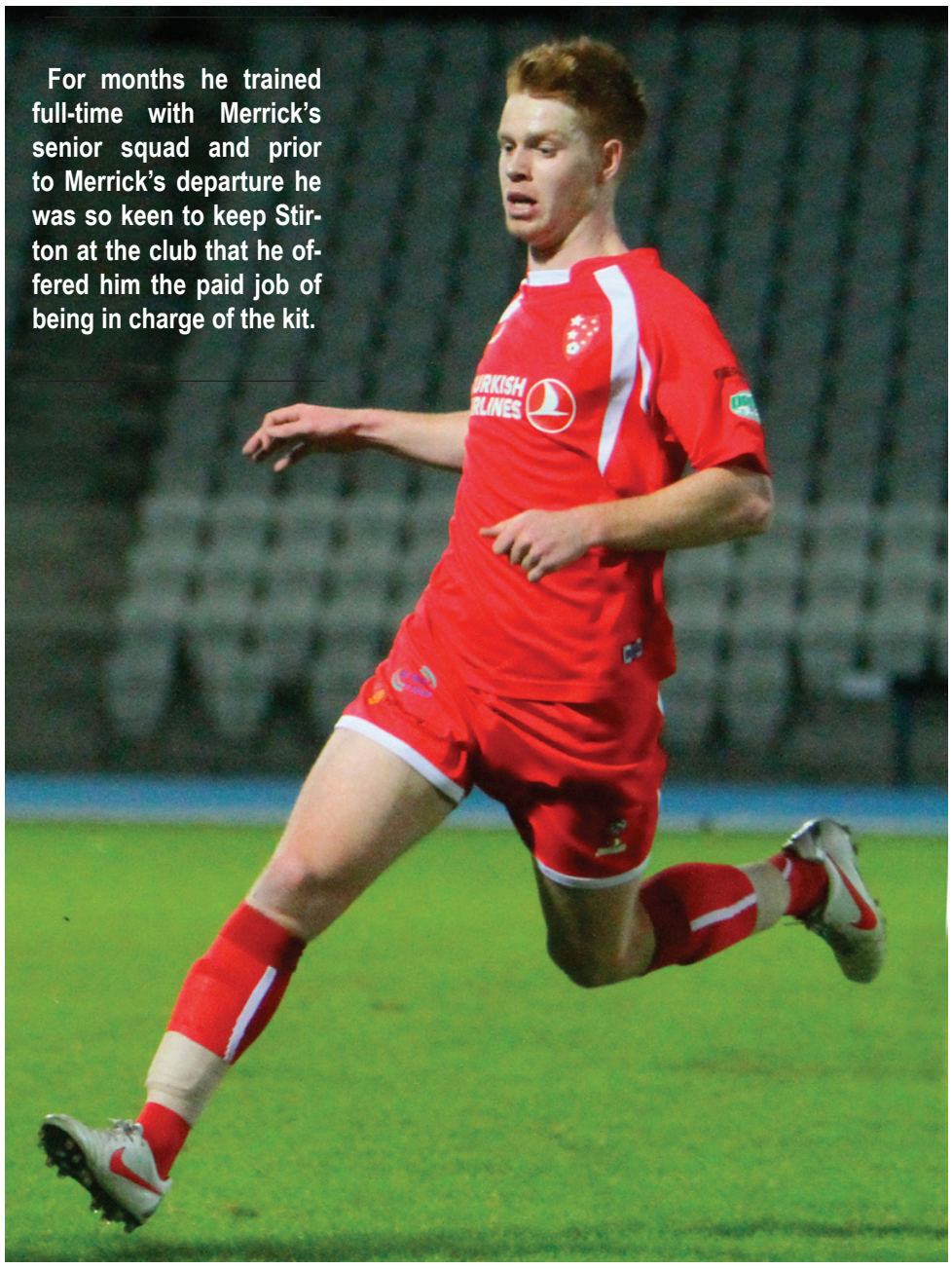
At worst he may be forced to continue as an A-League striker in waiting but at least he won't be short of suitors.

During last season's transfer window and in the midst of extensive pay cuts at Southern Stars his signature was pursued by Bentleigh Greens, Heidelberg and Moreland Zebras.

So too Dandenong City, then in Division One, who threw a lot of money in the youngster's direction.

In the end Stirton chose to stay loyal to his coach and his club and to his credit played his part in keeping Southern Stars in the league.

That says a lot about this young man's character but it's his football that says everything about his ability, an ability that I believe will see him eventually realise a long-cherished dream.



David Stirton in action for Southern Stars during the 2012 VPL season. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

AFCAT up and running

THE Association Football Coaches and Trainers organisation has been launched with an open invitation for FFA and all state federations to become involved.

The men behind AFCAT are former VIS and Victorian NTC coaches Ian Greener and Harry Bingham and Australian Football Skool director Rolando Navas.

"Initially I had contact from FFV who seemed concerned that I was going to bag them but that's not what I'm about," said Greener, who was cut adrift by the state federation in 2010.

"FFV runs an annual coaching conference where coaches sit there and all they get told about is the National Curriculum.

"We want to talk about world's best practices and bring coaches and trainers up to date with other methods and we want to do it on a regular basis.

"I want to add value to what's out there and I invite the FFA and all the state bodies to engage with us and at least see what we can contribute."

Greener claims AFCAT can contribute a vision of coaching unfettered by the constraints of strict adherence to our National Curriculum.

"Under the current system we are developing one-dimensional players and coaches. Our perspective is far too narrow at the moment and coaches need to be made aware of the fact that there is so much more to football that a 1-4-3-3 formation," said Greener.

Ian Greener circa 2008, coaching the Australian under-18s in the Nike tournament in the US.

"Let's give coaches the information and let them decide how to apply it in terms of systems.

"There is a lot to like about the National Curriculum and there's no doubt that it has much to offer but so have we.

"I'm hopeful that in time the powers that be will come to realise this and that they can play an active part in what I hope will be a very positive move for coaches and trainers."

AFCAT was launched at a meeting at Rowville Secondary College in Melbourne in late October and the organisation is targeting a membership of 100 by Christmas.

The feedback at the launch was excellent and during his presentation Greener skyped one of the development coaches at EPL outfit West Bromwich Albion.

AFCAT has an impressive range of international contacts and plans to run a series of practical sessions where it will put up its lesson plans for current and prospective members to digest.

"We've had quite a few enquiries from interstate already and we've signed up a member who is a regional coaching director in NSW," said Greener.

"I've received positive feedback from Ron Smith among others and we've got Lucio Trani lined up to do a presentation on life inside an A-League club."

There's an annual fee of $50 for AFCAT membership and the organisation is developing what it hopes will be "a very busy and active" website at www.afcat.com.au.

Sidelights on professionalism: Here and there

Blast From The Past

By Roy Hay

This week's Blast is somewhat different from my usual, but it was provoked by a request from a mother for some information on the wages of footballers prior to and after the Second World War to contrast with those of today.

Her son was doing an assignment at school and was asked to compare the remuneration of Sandro Mazzola, the Inter Milan star of the 1960s and Allesandro del Piero today. Once we had sorted out what she wanted I told her that professional football began in the 1880s in England when the early clubs began to attract talented players, many from Scotland, to assist them to win leagues and cups.

Fergus Suter is often said to be the first professional footballer when he and a fellow Scot John Love signed for Darwen in Lancashire, England in 1879 to play in the FA Cup. There was enormous controversy about this breach of the amateur ethos of the early game, but professionalism was legalised in England in 1885 and Scotland was forced to follow suit in 1893. The so-called 'Scots professors' developed the passing game which quickly superseded the sort of individualistic dribbling favoured by the early amateurs.

For many years payment to players and movement between clubs was hedged about by regulations designed to keep them from exploiting their skills and bargaining power. The retain and transfer system effectively tied players to the club for which they first signed, since, provided the club offered remuneration at the same rate as the expiring contract, they could continue to hold the player's registration indefinitely.

In addition, a maximum wage was set in England by the Football Association and this effectively placed a ceiling on earnings there and in the rest of the United Kingdom. Of course, star players could have their incomes supplemented in various indirect and sometimes clandestine ways—under the counter payments, employment by club supporters, gifts from fans, sponsorship and advertising. Also a star player could force a club to transfer him by refusing to play, if he had another club prepared to pay a transfer fee for him. My grandfather fell out with Celtic, which he captained, in 1911 only for Newcastle United to offer £1,250 for his services, which the Glasgow club accepted. They had only paid £50 to sign him in 1903, so this half of the Old Firm had done good business.

Bob Crampsey and I did some research on the wages of Scottish footballers before the First World War and concluded that a good professional player with a first division team could earn roughly double the income of a skilled artisan. So it was a relatively comfortable living, though precarious, since the playing career was often cut short by injury, loss of form or replacement by another. The gap between players and the fans who supported them was not vast and the players remained overwhelmingly working-class like their contemporaries.

In Australia professionalism, or perhaps, semi-professionalism developed in the inter-war years. The father of Bobby Simpson, Australia's cricket captain, arrived from Scotland in 1926. 'Jock' Simpson was offered £50 per season to play for Granville in Sydney. William McGowan was picked up by the Ford soccer club in Geelong as soon as his feet touched Australian soil in Melbourne that year. By the 1950s semi-professionalism was more common and overseas players were actively sought out by Australian clubs. 'Most [migrant soccer star players] have their fares paid by their supporters here, and are found jobs with a future', Soccer News reported in 1961. A State League club in Victoria was paying 16 first team players £5 a week and £3 to reserves in 1958. Many clubs were often referred to as 'kitchen table' outfits, with the year's 'profit' being divided up among the players and officials at the end of the season. Harry Mrksa of Croatia remembers doing this, quite literally, on his kitchen table in Kew.

Joe Baker, the Hibernian centre-forward, was born in England but in every other way was a Scot. In 1961 he sought a rise in wages of £5 on top of the £12 the club was paying him. Hibs refused and transferred him to Torino in Italy, who also signed Denis Law at roughly the same time. In Italy player payments were larger but more erratic. At Torino it was claimed the team were paid 'bags of money' when they won and nothing when they lost. Meanwhile in England the retain and transfer system was challenged in court in 1963 by George Eastham of Newcastle United. Eastham, backed by the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), argued that the system was an unreasonable restraint of trade and Mr Justice Wilberforce agreed. This led to a sharp rise in player payments with Johnny Haynes and Eastham becoming '£1,000 a year' players.

More recently in 1995, Jean-Marc Bosman, a Belgian footballer, took a case to the European Court of Justice under the provisions of European Community law on the freedom of movement for workers. He argued that when his contract expired his club had no further claim on his services and could not prevent him joining another club.

Again the court upheld the idea that restraint of trade was involved and granted Bosman's right to move as a free agent. Subsequently player payments have increased to the point where English Premier League players and those in the other top European leagues are now receiving thousands of pounds per week for the life of their contracts. Szymanski and Kuper have claimed that the best predictor of club success in Europe is now the size of the wage bill and as a consequence players in top teams no longer have a generic connection with the working class supporters of their clubs. Where Sandro Mazzola might be paid in the equivalent of thousands of Australian dollars in the 1960s, Alessandro del Piero receives millions. The precise figures remain to be determined.

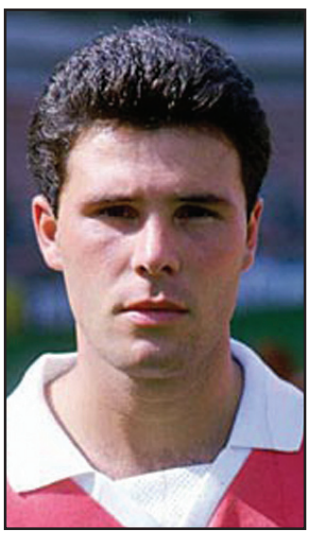
Hibs team 1961. Back row, left to right: John Fraser, Joe McClelland, Bill Muirhead, Bobby Kinloch, John Young, John Baxter. Front row: John Macleod, Bobby Johnstone, Joe Baker, Tommy Preston, Willie Ormond.

Blackburn Rovers won the Lancashire Cup in March 1883. From left to right, back row: Doctor Greenwood, R. Howorth, John Hargreaves, Fergie Suter, Middle row: John Duckworth, Hugh McIntyre, H. Sharples, Fred Hargreaves, Tot Strachan, George Avery. Sitting on the floor: Jimmy Brown and Jimmy Douglas. Source: Spartacus Educational

Joe Baker played a mean guitar. Source: Hugh Taylor, The Scottish Football Book, No. 7, 1961, p. 83.

Fergus Suter, one of the first professional footballers.

George Eastham, prior to his court case to try to end the retain and transfer system. John Harding, For the Good of the Game: The Official History of the Professional Footballers' Association, Robson Books, 1991, p. 276-7.



Jean-Marc Bosman. Source: BBC News.

Sandro Mazzola. Source: Media Tumblr.

Report by Matt Montgomery & Jimmy Soufis

Photos by Matt Montgomery & Jimmy Soufis

Pascoe Vale FC Crowned FOz Cup Winners

Well there it is Ladies and Gentleman! The conclusion to the 2012 NIKE V-League premiership season! The FOz Cup has been lifted by Pascoe Vale for the fifth time in their short existence with a hard fought 5-2 victory.

The final was played in a very professional manner, in front of a packed out FutsalOz Stadium and the spectators were not disappointed, being treated to a 'real' futsal game. It was a credit to both managers, Paul Vidic and Milton Sakkos to maintain a controlled manner within both squads!

The first half was fairly slow to get going as both Pascoe Vale and the Vipers looked to control the ball and tempo of the game. But it was regular goal sneak Joao Da Silva who got the Cup favourites off to the ideal start, easily slotting past Vipers stopper Christos Apostolakis. Moments later, a hand-ball in the 'D' by Jonathan Barrientos gifted Pascoe a chance to extend their lead but Christos Apostolakis held firm to deny Jose Portillo. The Vipers soon had a chance of their own to level the tie, but Joonathan Barrientos' header, which lobbed over Cem Bicer could not beat the crossbar. To finish off the first half, 2012 V-League Golden Boot winner, Sofiane Soufi got his first of the game with a fine finish from the tightest of angles to hand Pascoe Vale all the momentum at half time leading 2-0.

The second half started with a lot more purpose from the Pascoe Vale lads as Mark Burton scored a quick brace to take the lead to 4-0. One of Burton's goals was a brilliant sliding finish from the sideline, only to slot the ball perfectly between Apostolakis' legs to really put a dampener on the Viper's spirits. But the dampener was soon lifted as Adam Cooper - deployed as the 5th man - scored two cracking long range goals to swing back the momentum and reduce the deficit to 4-2. As soon as Cooper scored his second, a timeout was called and this seemed to work wonders for Pascoe Vale as Soufi scored almost immediately after the re-start to wrap up the title with less than 5 minutes remaining!

Congratulations to Paul Vidic and all of the Pascoe Vale lads who have now won the 2012 V-League and FOz Cup titles! All of their attention now moves to the Clubs Cup final, which will be played against Balwyn on Friday night! The Vipers on the other hand after an incredibly long calendar year packed full of games playing over 180 games in all competitions it is a credit to them to continue on making finals and challenging in all competitions which they take part in, And will now have time to re-group for the start of the new season beginning this Sunday the 11th of November.

Pascoe Vale Lift The FOz Cup trophy for the 5th time in their history. Photo By Theo Soufis

New Pascoe Vale signings Sofiane Soufi (left) & Jose Portillo (right) celebrate The Lions second goal. Photo By Matt Montgomery

Vic Vipers deployed 5th man Adam Cooper in an attempt to claw their way back into the tie. Photo By Matt Montgomery

Vic Vipers FC & North Melbourne FC Super & Championship League Kids line up before kick off. Photos By Matt Montgomery

Foz Cup Final Player Ratings

Pascoe Vale FC
3. Mark Burton - 8
6. James Blackburn - 4
7. Jose Portillo – 6
8. Brenno Polatti - 7
9. Joao Da Silva – 8
10. Andre Caro – 5
12. Felipe Tadashi – 6
18. Cem Bicer (GK) – 8
22. Sofiane Soufi – 9 (Man Of The Match)
23. Kasra Majbouri – (Unused Substitution)
25. Liam Digby – (Unused Substitution)

Vic Vipers FC
1. Christos Apostolakis - 6
3. Juka Avdic – 6
4. Kevin Barrientos – (Unused Substitution)
5. Hep Tran – 4
6. Kui Mu – 5
7. Mirza Pedic – 6
9. Jason Barrientos – 4
11. Jonathan Barrientos – 6
17. Adam Cooper – 8
18. Gabriel Lucena –(Unused Substitution)

The PFA Column

Nick Holland

Professional Footballers Australia (PFA), the exclusive representative body of A-League players, is due to re-open negotiations of the collectively bargained A-League agreement (CBA), which is pivotal to the sustained success of the A-League and football in general in this country.

TV Deal To Pave The Way For Football Success

It has been a great start to the Hyundai A-League season. The marquee signings, along with the performances of all A-League players has undoubtedly increased the appetite for football in Australia.

This has been evidenced by a surge in TV audiences and record attendances at games. As responsible partners in the game we, the football community, need to ensure we build on the great work that is being done by all parties in growing the game. The game will continue to grow only if we provide a quality competition with a great atmosphere that engages the fans.

It appears that the signing of a new and improved broadcast rights deal is imminent. In order to ensure the sustainability of the A-League in a competitive Australian sporting market, it is important that the increased funding received from the broadcast deal be apportioned to increased club dividends and to provide to players the rights and benefits enjoyed by Australian workers and players in the other codes. The A-League will not flourish unless the best Australian athletes consider it an attractive career path. To achieve this, the A-League must provide career and educational benefits comparable with the other elite football codes in Australia. If the clubs are sustainable and the A-League attracts the best talent through its compensation and benefits, the game will grow and succeed.

PFA President and Melbourne Heart player Simon Colosimo reiterated the importance of leveraging the goodwill created by the impressive start to this years A-League season, "The passion for football is at an all-time high further supported by recent ABS participation figures. It's important to use this goodwill, in partnership with the fans and clubs together with investment from FFA, to make football the sporting career of choice for young aspiring athletes."

Deal or No Deal? Let's hope it's a big deal!

"We need to keep in mind that with a genuine career path and an appropriate level of investment in player education and development, along with basic protections, high quality players will continue to be developed and be attracted to a career in football in Australia. Without any disrespect to the other stakeholders it is the players that people come to watch at the end of the day."

"For the above to happen, the football community needs to remain vigilant. If we don't implement a strategy to support the players, any deficiencies in key areas such as a player's pathway, could take a generation to correct."

In order to achieve stability and sustainability, the players' employment terms and conditions need to be incorporated into a new CBA. The clubs, players and FFA can then work with certainty towards the common goal of growing the game.

The players have always said they simply want to maintain the fair and equitable share of game revenue they currently receive, not increase it, and apply the additional funds to improve player benefits. Players care about their clubs and want to help them compete on the field and remain viable off of it. With the CBA to expire in April 2013, it is important that a new CBA is negotiated in the near future. This is particularly important because players and clubs are now able to negotiate contracts for the 2013-14 season, but do not have the salary cap, club dividend, and other information they may need to do so. The greater the certainty, the more likely it is that both clubs and players will commit to the A-League for the long term Football in Australia is starting to realise its potential and it is essential that all parties recognise the importance of working together and investing in the game to ensure the A-League continues to grow.

Eastern Lions Soccer Club Juniors Roar – Again!!

2012 has been the most successful season in the clubs 49 year history, with 3 teams winning league titles.

Both under 13 teams won their respective leagues, the Under 13A team winning back to back titles and the Under 13B team winning, ensuring that next year there are 2 teams in the A division of the Under 14 competition. It is a great achievement and a first for the club to have 2 teams competing in the A division in one age group.

Eastern Lions has a well-established development pathway and been a pioneer in developing players to play at a senior level , evident by the number of young players current senior teams at the club. It is a club policy to "grow our own" and strong philosophy to use players that have come through the junior system. The junior players are coached according to a curriculum, much like at school, where the training sessions are tailored for players age and ability with a progression path to ensure players reach their maximum potential.

The Under 14 teams of 2013 will be selected based on selection trials and will be held in November 2012 - details can be found on the Eastern Lions Soccer Club website www.easternlions.com.au.

Please ring Arthur Diony on 0413 705 139 for more details.

The championship winning Eastern Lions U13A.

The Season That Was

Sth Aust

By Luca Cetta

League & Cup Double triumph for MetroStars

In the end, familiar foes MetroStars and Adelaide City were left to do battle at Hindmarsh Stadium in the Super League Grand Final. Yet for 18 Rounds and a Finals Series prior, season 2012 ebbed and flowed through an enthralling six months of action.

The campaign commenced under a backdrop of change, with Football Federation South Australia altering its League structure for 2013, dropping the third division State League. This meant no Super League relegation in 2012. Croydon made an early statement of intent with a Round 2 victory over reigning champions Adelaide Blue Eagles. After staving off relegation in 2011, the Kings young brigade was ready to challenge the status quo.

Campbelltown looked solid at the outset and after missing the top five in 2011 had a point to prove. They showed their mettle with dual wins over Blue Eagles and MetroStars to go top. However, the latter triumph would be their last. Campbelltown endured a horrible downturn in form, losing eight straight to close the season. West Torrens Birkalla went the opposite way. A Round 4 victory over Adelaide Comets would not be followed up until late June. They finished strongly, claiming six on the trot. Sergio Melta's men just left their run too late, finishing two points from the Finals.

Adelaide Comets were looking forward to the top flight after victory in the Pre-Season Cup, but the League was a different story. They lost the first seven matches – including a 7-0 drubbing at Blue Eagles – before a much improved second half of the term under new coach Emir Tarabar. Comets and fellow promoted outfit Enfield City found the step up difficult and finished in the bottom two. Yet with no relegation, they have the chance to build next season.

Western Strikers were the revelation of 2011, claiming the Federation Cup and finishing in the Finals places. After a number of personnel changes they struggled for consistency. While Strikers remained in the Finals hunt, they fell just short of the mark.

Fifth place would go to Raiders. They claimed a Finals spot after two years in the wilderness. Branko Milosevic replaced Mike Barnett following a difficult beginning, and with wins over Blue Eagles, MetroStars and Campbelltown, the 2002 champions were on their way.

Raiders finished six points behind Adelaide City. The black and whites, along with Croydon, Blue Eagles and MetroStars, were engaged in a thrilling battle. They traded positions on a constant basis, but when Mark Brazzale's side raced away to the Minor Premiership, the remaining trio were left to scramble for second and third – a double chance in the Finals.

The victorious MetroStars took top football honours in South Australia this season. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

In the first week of the Finals, Croydon watched from afar as Adelaide City eliminated Raiders with a 2-0 victory. Blue Eagles were sent into a do-or-die affair with City when they succumbed to a 2-0 loss to MetroStars, who were peaking at the right time.

City sent the defending champions through the exit door after a 1-0 Minor Semi Final win. Croydon's first top flight Finals match since 2000 ended in a 1-0 defeat against MetroStars. Rick Cerracchio's side had already claimed the Federation Cup with a 3-1 win over Premier League club Para Hills and were on course for the double. For Croydon to have the chance at revenge they needed to overcome Adelaide City. However, it was Finals-hardened City who won through to the Grand Final with a 2-1 win.

The decider would be a replay of the 2008 and 2009 editions. Michael Matricciani was the hero in the Federation Cup Final with a brace and he gave MetroStars an early lead with an audacious lob.

They would not relinquish their grip on the trophy, even when Adelaide City threatened to send the game into extra-time. After straight sets Finals exits two years in a row, MetroStars could finally celebrate their third Super League crown with a 1-0 victory.

The Sergio Melta Medal for Super League player of the year had joint winners. Croydon's Alemayo Kabede and Nicholas Orr from Raiders polled 20 votes apiece in a race as close as the season itself. While some could not maintain consistency throughout the season, Croydon's young squad made a huge statement in 2012. They will be back next year. Yet after that late-season surge and dual triumphs, it is MetroStars who will be the team to beat.

Devine Super League Grand Final
MetroStars 1 *(Michael Matricciani)*
Adelaide City 0 *(HT 1-0)*
Saturday Sept 22 – Hindmarsh Stadium
Referee: Daniel Goodwin
Official Man of the match:
Tony Hatzis (MetroStars)

SA Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	P
Croydon	18	12	3	3	32	18	14	39
Adelaide Blue Eagles	18	11	2	5	38	17	21	35
MetroStars	18	9	4	5	29	20	9	31
Adelaide City	18	9	3	6	29	21	8	30
Raiders	18	7	3	8	28	30	-2	24
Western Strikers	18	7	2	9	25	27	-2	23
West Torrens Birkalla	18	7	1	10	28	33	-5	22
Campbelltown City	18	6	3	9	20	33	-13	21
Enfield City	18	5	2	11	16	32	-16	17
Adelaide Comets	18	5	1	12	25	39	-14	16

Coca-Cola Federation Cup Final
Para Hills 1 *(Rhys Towsend)*
MetroStars 3 *(Michael Matricciani 2, James Yong) (HT 0-1)*
Sat August 25 – Hindmarsh Stadium
Official Man of the Match:
Michael Matriccani (MetroStars)

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Latin Wrap

By Francis Fields

Barcelona Takes Honours in Ecuardorian Clasico Derby

Enzo Andía stunned Independiente with an early goal for Católica in Copa Sudamericana quarter finals.

Narciso Mina and Damián Díaz celebrating for Barcelona in a fierce Guayaquil derby in Ecuador.

Still on the subject of derbies this November, the Clásico del Astillero in the latest round of the Ecuadorian top flight was historic.

The derby, translated as the Shipyard Derby was historic for all the wrong reasons for Emelec as they were on the end of a 5-0 hiding by Barcelona at the Monumental Banco Pichincha stadium in Guayaquil.

Damián Díaz opened the scoring in 38 minutes which was followed by a double by Narciso Mina either side of half-time. Michael Arroyo claimed a fourth from the penalty spot before Díaz bagged his double a wrapped up an emphatic and record defeat.

Emelec also had to finish the game with 9 men after they lost Marcos Mondaini mid -way through the first half and Argentinian defender Cristián Javier Nasutti half-way through the second half. If one watches video replays online, both were horrendous tackles and deserved expulsion.

The first red card changed the game completely as Emelec had started the brighter but after going down 2 – 0 before half-time there was no way back. Barcelona climb up to top position in the Ecuadorian league ladder while Emelec drop to fifth. Second and third-placed sides Tecnico Universatario and league giants LDU de Quito drew 1-1.

Elsewhere, while the Argentine Primera title race and the battle for Liguilla in Mexico get better by the week, Fluminense all but locked up the Brazilian championship title last Sunday. With four rounds left to play, they're nine points ahead of their nearest rivals. Atlético Mineiro falter as "Flu" win to virtually take Brazilian crown

Whatever slim chances that Atlético Mineiro had to catch Fluminense for the Brasileirao title are now virtually gone. They fell 1-0 away to Cortiba this weekend, on a goal by former Fenerbahce and Flamengo star Deivid. Fluminense struggled to draw away to a good Sao Paulo team, but extended their lead in the process. CAM needed to take advantage of the slip-up, and their inability to do so has likely cost them a shot at a trophy.

To make sure that the final four weeks of the Brasileirao are thoroughly uninteresting, Botafogo, Internacional and Vasco da Gama all failed to win, meaning Sao Paulo have an eight-point cushion on the teams chasing them for the final Copa Libertadores spot. They're not going to let that evaporate, but the race for fifth could become relevant if Sao Paulo go on to win the Copa Sudamericana, where they already have one foot in the semi-final with a 2-0 away win to Universidad de Chile.

The qualification race for the Copa Libertadores is also not as interesting with spots pretty much sorted out, meaning football in Brazil is essentially done until state championships start up again next year. Luckily, the other leagues in the Americas are currently providing plenty of entertainment.

Neymar also topped off a superb round performance as he scored a hat-trick as Santos beat Cruzeiro 4-0 at the Mineirao Stadium. The young starlet in front of media and fans said the overwhelming reaction of rival supporters to his Brazil Serie A performance over the weekend nearly reduced him to tears.

While the home support jeered their own players for an abject display, they also gave the 20-year-old a standing ovation as he made his way off the pitch. "I am overcome, it makes me want to cry," Neymar told reporters.

"It is unusual for this to happen. In fact, I cannot remember this ever happening so I am very grateful." The goals take Neymar's tally to 12 for the season despite a three-week absence as a result of his participation at the Olympics with the national side. Santos are ninth in the Brazilian championship with 46 points from 34 games.

TIGRES WIN REGIOMONTANO CLASICO

UANL Tigres kept their Liguilla qualification hopes alive this weekend, while simultaneously hurting Monterrey's. Young forward Alan Pulido came on as a half-time substitute and scored the 63rd minute winner for Tigres at the Estadio Tecnológico, moving Tigres to within one point of Monterrey and three points of Liguilla (play-off) places.

The loss puts Monterrey into a position where they do not control their own play-off destiny heading into the final round of the season. The Rayados still have two games left and could make the playoffs, even upset teams like Santos or Chivas. They must face Toluca midweek before ending their season this weekend.

Chivas Guadalajara and Santos Laguna currently sit on 23 points and occupy the last two Liguilla places, while Morelia looks a bit more safe on 24 points. Five teams outside of the top eight have at least 20 points and are mathematically alive going into the final day. Monterrey have a game in hand, which will be played Wednesday, that could shake up the race.

It is quite peculiar in the standings as the two newest teams in La Liga MX sit in the top spots of the league table. Club Tijuana (Xolos) continues as "top dogs" and Club León follow one point behind.

With one game day left the three spots for Copa Libertadores remain open. At this time Tijuana and Leon would get the direct pass to the group stages while Club América would get the play-off berth. As for the Apertura 2012 playoffs, there are nine teams in position for the four remaining spots. Only Xolos, Leon, América, and Toluca have secured their spot.

While Xolos sit atop of the league table with 31 points, Toluca, with 30 points, sits in fourth but with one less game played. Monterrey is in a similar situation currently in 10th with one less game.

Week 16 began with Pumas UNAM falling. Jaguares de Chiapas FC defeated them 3-0. The "Chiapanecos" faced a demoralized squad that had no direction and easily gave up control of the pitch. The victory put Jaguares in contention after five home games at home without seeing a loss.

The more competitive game had Club Santos Laguna facing Cruz Azul who are close to entering the play-offs, but stumbled in their visit to the TSM Corona stadium in Torreón. Santos is fighting for one of the last available berths for the play-off series. Due to goal differential a draw could help Cruz Azul through, but would depend on other results to secure the spot. Santos needs a win, especially if Chivas de Guadalajara also wins leaving both teams with 26 points.

América played a thriller by thrashing Pachuca 4-0. The victory moved them into Copa Libertadores contention meaning Pachuca is out of the play-offs.

Chivas managed an agonising 1-0 victory over last place Querétaro FC at La Corregidora stadium. Querétaro could be the first team to go winless since CF Indios de Ciudad Juárez took the distinction in the Apertura 2009. Chivas still need a win in the last game day if they want to secure a play-off berth. The problem is they face Club Tijuana.

In a twist, fifteenth San Luis FC held Xolos to scoreless draw at Caliente stadium. Xolos played their final game of the regular season at home keeping their undefeated home record intact. Tijuana has qualified for the play-offs and is looking to participate in the Copa Libertadores.

The round last Sunday began with Monarcas Morelia earning a draw against Toluca at the Nemesio Díez stadium. Morelia keeps their hopes of a play-off spot alive. Toluca still has two games before the season ends.

Sixteenth placed Puebla FC and seventeenth placed Atlas ended in a 2-2 draw. The point helps them increase the distance between them and Queretaro. All three teams will begin the Clausura 2013 fighting relegation.

The final game of week 16 had Leon sinking Atlante FC's hopes of reaching the play-offs with a 3-2 result in favour of "La Fiera". While Atlante has a mathematical chance of reaching the play-offs it would require a major catastrophe by the rest of the eight teams looking to earn one of the four available spots. Leon is also trying to earn a Copa Libertadores spot.

NEWELL'S LEAD IN ARGENTINA

Newell's Old Boys still lead an exciting Primera race, and Boca Juniors have not given up yet.

Another week, another patented Gerardo Martino away draw. Newell's Old Boys are still undefeated this season after playing Colón to a 1-1 stalemate. Unfortunately for them, their lead shrunk as all of Vélez Sarsfield, Boca Juniors, and unlikely title challengers Belgrano emerged from their matches victorious. Vélez's performance was especially impressive, as they posted a 5-1 road win against Arsenal.

Boca Juniors sits in fourth place and has the most difficult road to the title for reasons other than their current points deficit. They still have to play league front runners Newell's and Vélez.

NEW LEAGUE LEADER IN CHILE

For the last year, Universidad de Chile has been one of the most entertaining sides in South America, but they're in a bit of a rut. They've failed to score in three big matches over the last month, losing to Colo Colo and Sao Paulo before drawing 0-0 with Universidad Católica over the weekend. The Chilean Primera has play-offs commencing next week, so there's no major concern for "La U" at this point, but it's tough to figure out exactly where the goals have gone.

Elsewhere in Chile, Colo Colo won again to go top of the table. This is the first time the most popular club goes top since November 2010. With one round left to play in the regular season, 2012 Copa Libertadores participants Católica and Unión Española appear to be fighting for one play-off spot. The surprise teams in the regular season by far have been regional clubs Rangers de Talca and Deportes Iquique, the latter secured a berth place for the prestigious Copa Libertadores next year. Santiago-based club Palestino and O'Higgins de Rancagua have also performed very well during the regular Clausura championship.

PEÑAROL GO TOP AHEAD OF CLASICO

Even though Peñarol entered this weekend's clash with Defensor Sporting on top of the Uruguayan Primera table, they had yet to prove their worth against top sides. In the first of two consecutive huge matches, they brought their best and defeated Defensor Sporting 2-1, solidifying their standing on top of the table. Next week, they play in the country's biggest derby against Nacional, who might have got caught looking ahead to next week in a 2-0 loss to River Plate de Montevideo.

In Colombia, Atletico Junior posted a rare loss while Millonairos defeated Envigado and La Equidad beat Real Cartegena away. Millonairos lead the league on 34 points, while La Equidad sit on 32 and Junior have 29. Guarani drew away to Sportivo Luqueño in Paraguay, but still lead that league by four points. Deportivo Anzoátegui drew to keep the lead in Venezuela, Sporting Cristal expanded their lead in Peru to 19 points, and San Jose won to stay top in Bolivia.

COPA SUDAMERICANA QUARTER FINALS

As mentioned earlier, Willian Jose has scored two goals to help Sao Paulo defeat Universidad Chile 2-0 in the first leg of their Copa Sudamericana quarter-final.

Playing away from home on Wednesday, Sao Paulo got off to a brilliant start when Willian José collected Wellington's long pass in the eighth minute, took a touch and then thumped a shot over Universidad's goalkeeper Johnny Herrera and under the crossbar. Just 11 minutes later and it was 2-0 after Lucas Moura's cross from the right wing bobbled around in the penalty area and Willian José was the first to react, thumping the ball into the net.

Sao Paulo maintained that score line for the rest of the match in Santiago - aided by a brilliant performance from veteran goalkeeper Rogerio Ceni.

Argentine sides Tigre and Independiente have struggled in the first legs of their Copa Sudamericana quarter-finals last week. Independiente would have fancied their chances of taking an advantage from their home first leg at the Doble Visera stadium against Chile's Universidad Católica, but instead they were stunned and held to a 2-2 draw.

Enzo Andía opened the scoring for the visitors at the Estadio Libertadores de America after just three minutes with a stunning header, but Independiente were back on level terms on the stroke of half-time when Cristián Tula scored.

Lucas Villafañez netted 11 minutes into the second half to put the Argentines ahead with a deflected shot but a 70th-minute strike from Nicolás Castillo tied things up and silenced the home crowd ahead of the second leg next Thursday in Santiago at San Carlos de Apoquindo.

There was worse news for the other Argentine side left in the competition, with Tigre going down 1-0 in Paraguay to Cerro Porteño. Roberto Nanni scored the only goal of the game in the second minute in Asunción to give his side a slender advantage heading into the second leg.

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Arsenal make worst start in 18 years

London Calling

By Samuel Collins

With the clock ticking down at Old Trafford, and their side on the verge of another defeat, they'd seen enough. Shaking of heads of those sporting red and white scarves was followed by almighty frowns. Then, the Arsenal faithful let rip. "Ivan Gazidis, what do you do?!" the furious Gunners fans belted out.

The disgruntled chant came shortly after Patrice Evra had put Manchester United two up in the second half. And despite a late consolation, courtesy of Santi Cazorla's wonderful strike, the London outfit lose 2-1. Another loss. Arsenal have now lost 3 of their last 5 in the league, 4 of their last 8 in all competitions. It's a result that leaves Arsene Wenger's side 6th in the Premier League, 9 points off the summit. Worst still, it's the poorest start to a season during the Frenchman's time at the club. Not since the 1994/95 campaign - two seasons before Wenger's arrival - have Arsenal recorded less points after 10 league games. 18 years ago, George Graham's men managed just 14 points from 10 games. The Scotsman lost his job three months later and the North Londoners ended up 12th come May. And whilst there's no danger of Wenger losing his job, or the club finishing quite as low as twelfth just now, there are huge concerns about the direction of Arsenal football club right now.

Arsenal CEO Ivan Gazidis

mYes, gooners did travel 200 miles up the M1 more in hope than expectation on Saturday morning. And yes, there have been several lifeless displays in recent weeks - the defeats to Schalke and Norwich come to mind. But no one anticipated that. Not a performance that bad. The visitors' first shot on target came after 91 minutes, whilst the hosts took the lead after just 3 minutes. Robin van Persie, playing against his old side for the first time, fired past Vito Mannone after captain Thomas Vermaelen's dreadful error. What followed was an onslaught from Manchester United, it could, and probably should, have been 3, 4 or 5-1. But the 2 were enough. Jack Wilshere's second start in 17 months, following a lengthy lay-off through injury, lasted only 68 minutes as he was sent off, a red card Wenger labeled "harsh".

Gazidis, the club's Chief Executive of the last four years, came with a reputation as a "first-class" businessman. If you look at it one way, that reputation has only been enhanced. Since the South African's appointment, Arsenal have spent £126m and recouped £163m, meaning the club have made £37m when it comes to transfers in and out since January 2009. But "bank balances don't win trophies" as one leading member of Arsenal's Supporters Trust (AST) once pointed out. And fans are sick of seeing their best players leave every summer. Five years ago, it was Thierry Henry, four years ago it was Alex Hleb & Mathieu Flamini, three years ago it was Emmanuel Adebayor, a year ago it was Cesc Fabregas and Samir Nasri and of course, in the window just gone, Van Persie and Alex Song both departed the Emirates. And when no 'key' players were let go in 2010, the signings during that summer - Laurent Koscielny, Marouane Chamakh and Sebastien Squillaci - were all underwhelming.

The fixture list doesn't make for comfortable reading, either. By the time you read this, Arsenal will have visited Schalke in the Champions League, a match, much like at Old Trafford, that no one expects much from. Defeat in Germany would put the Gunners' European progress into doubt. After that, two London derbies against Fulham and arch-rivals Tottenham quickly follow. To win any of the next three games, Wenger knows his men will have to improve drastically.

Sir Alex Ferguson, the long-serving United coach, hesitated to call the clash with Arsenal a tough game, identifying it as "hard-ish" beforehand, and then "not a close game" afterwards. The days of Wenger-Ferguson spats, Patrick Vieira-Roy Keane flare-ups and title deciders between these two sides are long gone. United have now beaten Arsenal in their last three meetings, and lost just 1 of the previous 11. You see, whilst Arsenal are getting richer every summer - the clubs' reported transfer budget totals £70m - the XI on the field are getting poorer. Names linked with a January transfer to the Emirates include Crystal Palace wonderkid Wilfried Zaha and Atletico Madrid forward Adrian, and whilst both are young, their potential is undoubted. But they're certainly not the 'world-class' names that supporters crave. More additions like Cazorla, who joined for £12m in August, are needed.

Gazidis emphasizes that in two years time, the Gunners will be able to "compete with the best" when Financial Fair Play arrives, but there are genuine fears about the infallibility of FFP. Will it really stop clubs like Manchester City, Chelsea and PSG, with methods around the rules well documented? It's a very risky move from Arsenal.

"We want our Arsenal back" shouted the away fans on Saturday. Investment is needed if that's to become a reality.

Euro Champions League Wrap

Group A: PSG thump Zagreb, Porto through

Paris Saint-Germain cruised to a comfortable 4-0 home win over Dinamo Zagreb as the visitors were eliminated from the Champions League.

Three second-half goals were assisted by Zlatan Ibrahimovic, as Blaise Matuidi, Jeremy Menez and Guillaume Hoarau all scored to ensure that qualification is within sight for the capital club.

Meanwhile, Porto sealed their progress to the last 16 despite failing to break down a determined Dynamo Kiev side during a dour 0-0 draw in the Ukrainian capital.

Group B: Arsenal draw, Olympiacos close gap

Arsenal let a two-goal lead slip at Schalke but still held on for a valuable 2-2 draw.

The Gunners took the lead with early on when Theo Walcott tapped into an empty net, before Oliver Giroud doubled their advantage in the 26th minute.

But a goal from Klass-Jan Huntelaar right on half-time halved the deficit and Jefferson Farfan levelled the scores midway through the second half.

Meanwhile, Olympiacos closed to within a point of Arsenal with a vital 3-1 win at home to Montpellier, which virtually ends the French side's chances of qualifying.

Group C : Malaga advance, Anderlecht survive

Malaga retained their unbeaten record in the Champions League with a 1-1 draw against AC Milan enough to secure their progression.

The draw puts Malaga in the hat for the next round, while second-placed Milan travel to Brussels in a fortnight to face Anderlecht in a must-win fixture.

The Belgian side grabbed all three points with a 1-0 win over a lacklustre Zenit St Petersburg.

Group D: City on brink, Oezil saves Real

Manchester City drew 2-2 with Ajax to face almost certain elimination from the Champions League.

Real Madrid left it late to secure a 2-2 draw against Borussia Dortmund at Santiago Bernabeu.

A display of defensive diligence and deadly counterattacking seemed set to send the German outfit to their second victory over Jose Mourinho's men, but a free kick from Mesut Oezil in the last minute salvaged a point for the hosts.

Group E wrap: Chelsea edge Shakhtar in thriller

Chelsea substitute Victor Moses headed a last-minute winner to clinch a 3-2 win over Shakhtar Donetsk.

The former Wigan striker rose high in the last minute of added time to head home Juan Mata's corner after a thrilling encounter in which they twice took the lead but made poor defensive errors as they were pegged back by the swift attacking movement of the Ukrainian champions.

Juventus cruised to a 4-0 win over Danish side FC Nordsjaelland in Torino.

Group F wrap: Bayern hit Lille for six

Bayern Munich knocked Lille out of the Champions League with a crushing 6-1 victory that saw Peruvian Claudio Pizarro strike a 15-minute hat-trick.

At the Mestalla, Valencia strolled to a three-goal lead, but a pair of sloppy errors gave BATE a window of opportunity before an eventual 4-2 result.

Group G wrap: Celtic stun Barcelona

Celtic clinched a shock 2-1 victory over Barcelona to hand the Catalan giants their first Champions League group stage defeat in three years.

Benfica kept their hopes of qualification from the Group G alive with a 2-0 victory over Spartak Moscow with Paraguayan striker Oscar Cardozo proving the difference.

Group H : United advance to knockout stages

Manchester United rallied with three late goals at Braga to confirm their place in the knockout stages. It was a fourth-straight group stage win for the Red Devils, who weathered an early Alan penalty and a power cut with strikes from Robin van Persie, a Wayne Rooney penalty and a Javier Hernandez scrambled effort all within the last 10 minutes.

Turkish giants Galatasaray revived their hopes of qualification on with a quality away display in Romania.

UEFA Champions League - Match Day 6

Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Porto	4	3	1	0	6	2	+4	10
2 PSG	4	3	0	1	10	2	+8	9
3 D Kyiv	4	1	1	2	5	7	-2	4
4 D Zagreb	4	0	0	4	0	10	-10	0

Dynamo Kyiv 0 - 0 Porto
PSG 4 - 0 Dinamo Zagreb

Group B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Schalke	4	2	2	0	8	5	+3	8
2 Arsenal	4	2	1	1	7	6	+1	7
3 Olympia	4	2	0	2	7	7	+0	6
4 Montpell	4	0	1	3	5	9	-4	1

Schalke 04 2 - 2 Arsenal
Olympiakos 3 - 1 Montpellier

Group C	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Málaga	4	3	1	0	8	1	+7	10
2 Milan	4	1	2	1	4	4	+0	5
3 Anderlecht	4	1	1	2	1	4	-3	4
4 Zenit	4	1	0	3	3	7	-4	3

Anderlecht 1 - 0 Zenit
Milan 1 - 1 Málaga

Group D	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Dortmund	4	2	2	0	6	4	+2	8
2 R Madrid	4	2	1	1	10	7	+3	7
3 Ajax	4	1	1	2	6	8	-2	4
4 Man City	4	0	2	2	6	9	-3	2

Manchester City 2 - 2 Ajax
Real Madrid 2 - 2 Borussia Dortmund

Group E	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Chelsea	4	2	1	1	10	6	+4	7
2 Shakhtar	4	2	1	1	7	5	+2	7
3 Juventus	4	1	3	0	8	4	+4	6
4 Nordsj	4	0	1	3	1	11	-10	1

Chelsea 3 - 2 Shakhtar Donetsk
Juventus 4 - 0 Nordsjælland

Group F	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 München	4	3	0	1	10	5	+5	9
2 Valencia	4	3	0	1	10	4	+6	9
3 BATE	4	2	0	2	8	9	-1	6
4 Lille	4	0	0	4	2	12	-10	0

Valencia 4 - 2 BATE
Bayern München 6 - 1 Lille

Group G	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Barcelona	4	3	0	1	8	5	+3	9
2 Celtic	4	2	1	1	6	5	+1	7
3 Benfica	4	1	1	2	3	4	-1	4
4 Spartak	4	1	0	3	6	9	-3	3

Celtic 2 - 1 Barcelona
Benfica 2 - 0 Spartak Moskva

Group H	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Man Utd	4	4	0	0	9	4	+5	12
2 Galatas	4	1	1	2	4	5	-1	4
3 CFR Cluj	4	1	1	2	5	6	-1	4
4 Braga	4	1	0	3	5	8	-3	3

Sporting Braga 1 - 3 Man Utd
CFR Cluj 1 - 3 Galatasaray

Balkan Wrap

By Alex Milic

Serbia

Partizan Belgrade has extended its lead at the top of the Serbian Superliga by five points following Jagodina's win at the Marakana against Red Star in Round 11.

Red Star took the lead at the start of the second half when former Jagodina man, Mudrinksi scored but in the 66th minute the scores were level as Djuric found the net, and with only five minutes remaining Djenic silenced the home crowd when he netted the winner, putting Simo Krunic's men within two point of Red Star and second place on the standings.

Partizan overpowered Radnicki in Nis 4:0, things didn't get off to the best of starts when Kolarevic scored an own goal in the 7th minute. In the second half Stefan Scepovic made it 2:0 at the hour mark while Jojic and Ninkovic also found the back of the net for a comfortable win for the league leaders and defending champions.

FK Rad and Vojvodina shared the spoils with a 1:1 draw, in Round 12 Partizan takes on Radnicki Kragujevac while Red Star looks to bounce back when they take on local rivals OFK Beograd. Jagodina will look to continue its fine form when they welcome Smederevo to town. The first Serbian Eternal Derby of the year is on the 17th of November when Partizan makes the short trip to arch rivals Red Star at the Marakana.

Croatia

Dinamo Zagreb continues to dominate in the Croatian League, with another easy win, this time Istra was not good enough for the most successful side in the Croatian League. Dinamo scored a quickfire double through Croatian national team players Vida and Sammir in the 19th and 13rd minute. Istra pulled one back just before half time but Vida netted his second to seal the win in the second half. However, the Croatian giants continue to struggle and find their place amongst the continents elite, as they suffered another convincing defeat in the Champions League, this time PSG scored four unanswered goals to sink Dinamo.

Hajduk is in second place following a comprehensive win over the bottom club in the league Zadar. Goals from Vukovic, Bencun and Kis signalled a good night for the 'Whites' who now take on Zagreb and should win easily against the club that has only nine points from the first fourteen rounds.

Hajduk shares second place with Rijeka and Slaven who all have 24 points, Slaven drew with Split 2:2 with goals from goal scoring machine Vugrinec and Canadjija for Slavenand Vojnovic and Rebic for the visitors. Slaven should have no troubles when they make the trip to Zadar in Round 15.

Dinamo Zagreb makes the trip to the Dalmationa coast to take on Split while Rijeka and Lokomotiva go head to head in another big match in Round 15 of the Croatian League.

Greek giants Olympiakos keep the Champions League dream alive.

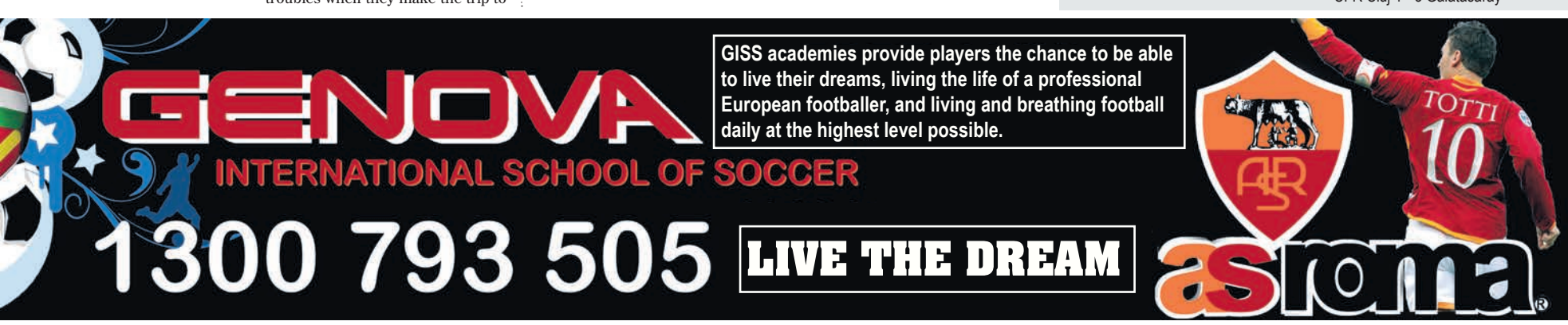
Greece

Olympiakos dreams continue in the Champions League following another win, this time against French Champions Montpellier who fell 3:1 in Athens. The Greek champions are currently third in Group B only two points off top place Schalke. Following nine rounds in the Greek League Olympiakos is on top of the standings and has a five point lead over second placed PAOK. Panathinaikos is currently in sixth position, a further twelve points behind their arch rivals Olympiakos. One of Greek football's biggest clubs AEK Athens is on the foot of the table with only five points from the first nine rounds, and things can only get harder when Olympiakos comes to town in Round 10 of the Greek League while PAOK welcomes seventh place Platanais to Salonika.

Turkey

Galatasaray and Antalyaspor share top spot in the Turkish League following 10 rounds with 21 points. Four points more than third placed Eskihsehirpor and Orduspor.

Galatasaray overcame Instanbul in Round 10, with a 3:1 away win, they now make the trip to Mersin in Round 11. Kayserispor is out of the relegation zone following Robert Prosinecki's first win in charge of this new club, a double to Bobo saw off Karabukspor 3:0. Fenerbahce is currently in sixth place with 16 points, one more than Besiktas.



EPL Wrap

By Andrew Bishara

Death of a Derby

During the pre-match press conference Sir Alex Ferguson was being polite when saying: "Since I've come down here, it's always the most important derby game in the sense that both teams have always been challenging for the league."

The way Ferguson was referring to the Arsenal and Manchester derby in past tense highlighted the chasm between the two sides. After Manchester United's extremely comfortable win over Arsenal over the weekend, there is no doubt that Ferguson is right on cue: this is one dead derby.

Following the result, Sir Alex spoke of how "casual" his team were and how they could of won "by five or six". Despite the score line reading 2-1, "you think it's a close game but it's wasn't a close game." Ferguson told Sky Sports.

But it was one quote that summed up just how this once fierce, combative derby has fallen. "It was an unusual Manchester United v Arsenal game really. It didn't really get anywhere near the Manchester United v Arsenal games in the past." said Ferguson.

There was no doubt about it. As I mentioned in last week's column, Arsenal – Manchester United clashes lack the warlike and fiery spark that was around during the Patrick Viera and Roy Keane days. Back then; there were studs-up tackles, controversial goals, flying boots, throat grabbing, pushes, punches and yes, even throwing pizza.

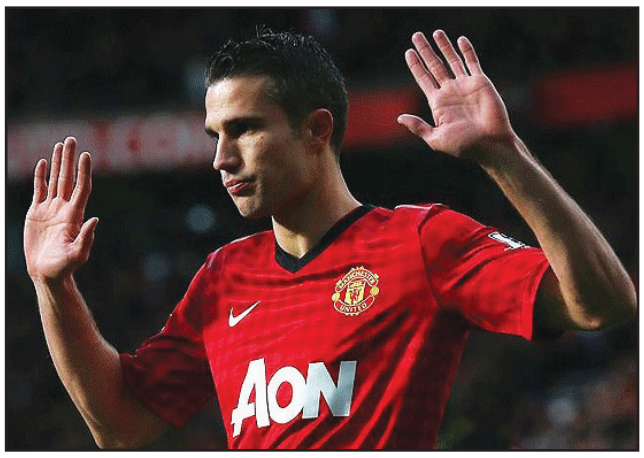
Now, there are naught of the sorts. Arsenal were outplayed by the Red Devils with such ease, that it could have been mistaken that the Gunners are a mid-table team. While, Arsene Wenger's men held the majority of possession, they were lacklustre and offered very little threat up front. United have found the best (and after years of dominance, the most consistent) formula to beat Arsenal.

Defend deep, flood the midfield and make your strikers pressure Arsenal defenders, who love the play the ball out of defence. Sir Alex organised his team to follow this structure and it worked to a treat. United were clinical, fast and determined. Wenger meanwhile offered little in return, both tactically and in decision-making – especially the decision to keep Jack Wilshere on the field, when he had a yellow card.

Of course, one cannot talk about this game without Van Persie. His celebration after opening the scoring typified the man himself: hands up, apologetic for scoring against the team that made him. He didn't leave Arsenal, because he didn't believe in the club and what it stood: he left because he knew that the chasm between the Gunners and the big boys was ever growing.

This match showed him that gap: the poor defence, the lack of bite and most importantly, the complete absence of determination. Van Persie only needs to look at his current side to see the ingredients of success.

This game was once the most keenest and anticipated games of the season. You only need to remember the days of Freddie Ljunberg scoring for Arsenal at Old Trafford to win them the 2002 title or United to end the Gunners' 49-match unbeaten run. Or remembering the Viera's last kick for the club – bringing them the FA Cup over United or Ryan Giggs' last grasp goal in the 1999 FA Cup semi-final to relive the passion and intensity. Sadly, those days are all gunned down.



Manchester United's Robin van Persie scores, but can't bring himself to celebrate against his former club, Arsenal.

ENGLAND EPL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Manchester United	10	8	0	2	26	14	+12	24	W W W W L
2 Chelsea	10	7	2	1	22	10	+12	23	D L W W W
3 Manchester City	10	6	4	0	18	9	+9	22	D W W W W
4 Everton	10	4	5	1	19	13	+6	17	D D D D W
5 West Bromwich ...	10	5	2	3	15	11	+4	17	W L L W D
6 Tottenham Hotspur	10	5	2	3	17	14	+3	17	L W L W W
7 Arsenal	10	4	3	3	15	8	+7	15	L W L W L
8 Fulham	10	4	3	3	21	16	+5	15	D D W D L
9 West Ham United	10	4	3	3	13	11	+2	15	D L W L W
10 Newcastle United	10	3	5	2	12	14	-2	14	D W D L D
11 Swansea City	10	3	3	4	15	14	+1	12	D L W D L
12 Liverpool	10	2	5	3	13	15	-2	11	D D W D W
13 Wigan Athletic	10	3	2	5	11	16	-5	11	W W L D L
14 Norwich City	10	2	4	4	8	18	-10	10	W D W L L
15 Stoke City	10	1	6	3	8	10	-2	9	L D L D W
16 Sunderland	9	1	6	2	6	9	-3	9	L D D L W
17 Aston Villa	10	2	3	5	8	14	-6	9	W D L L D
18 Reading	9	0	5	4	12	18	-6	5	D D L D D
19 QPR	10	0	4	6	8	19	-11	4	D L D L L
20 Southampton	10	1	1	8	14	28	-14	4	L L L D L

Latest Results	This Week
Man U 2 - 1 Arsenal	Arsenal v Fulham
Fulham 2 - 2 Everton	Everton v Sunderland
Norwich City 1 - 0 Stoke City	Reading v Norwich City
Sunderland 0 - 1 Aston Villa	Southampton v Swansea City
Swansea City 1 - 1 Chelsea	Stoke City v QPR
Tottenham 0 - 1 Wigan Athletic	Wigan Athletic v WBA
West Ham 0 - 0 Man City	Aston Villa v Man U
QPR 1 - 1 Reading	Manchester City v Tottenham
Liverpool 1 - 1 Newcastle Utd	Newcastle U v West Ham
WBA 2 - 0 Southampton	Chelsea v Liverpool

One To Watch This Weekend...

Everton have surprised critics this season with their explosive start. After back-to-back draws, they welcome Sunderland to Goodison Park. Sunderland, on the flip side has been a bore under Martin O'Neil with minor rumours circling that he could on his way out. Could this be O'Neil's last game?

EPL Preview

This week's round of fixtures, brings up two tasty clashes. First up reigning champions, Manchester City will be hosting Tottenham at Etihad Stadium. This game has had some engrossing history over the past few years, as both teams have risen through the Premier League. It all began with Spurs pipping City to Champions League spot in 2010. The following year, in the same clash, City was the team to put Spurs out of the top four.

This season, both teams are enduring changes albeit both for different reasons. City has been dismal and inconsistent this season, for a number of different reasons. Roberto Mancini's constant rotation of players and tactics has confused his players – most notably his decision to go to a 3-5-2 formation. His logic behind it is to offer another formula to hold a lead, but also to keep the players on their toes. Sticking to the same formula day after day brings laziness and complacency.

The changes aren't working – and when he has brought things back to basics, City lack to the killer instincts of last season, mainly due to Mancini's rotating his forwards, who can't seem to get a good run of games.

Spurs on the other hand are under transformation since the arrival of Andre Villas-Boas. The former Chelsea manager has had a positive start to life in North London, yet he has still yet to find his best team.

They have played brilliantly one week, terrible the next. More worryingly, is the rate that they have been conceding goals (14 so far this year) and while AVB is known for his attacking style game, without a strong defence, his team is going to be punished.

Spurs have inherited a new team and it will take a while for them to settle in under the new manager's style and his obsession of tactics. They are sitting sixth on the table and compared to last season, have an abundance of talent on the bench.

Following that clash, Liverpool will be travelling to Stamford Bridget to face European champions, Chelsea. The history between these two are well known, but over the last few years the passion as cooled off (in a similar vein to Arsenal and Manchester United) The reasons are simple Jose Mourinho is no longer there to clash with former Reds' boss Rafael Benitez; and Liverpool are not the team they once were.

Similar to Spurs, Liverpool are rebuilding under Brendan Rodgers new Barcelona style of play. They have played brilliantly this season but for Liverpool, the problem is the lack of a goal scoring threat. Everything it seems is put on Luis Suarez, who as fantastic as he has been this season can't carry the team alone with some support.

Under Roberto Di Matteo, Chelsea is clearly a title contender. They might have had a bad two weeks (losing to Manchester United, drawing to Swansea and the whole Clattenburg fiasco) but they have the look of a decent side – especially in attack.

The problems come from the backline and it has been stated because of the all the attacking intent on the side (Mata, Oscar, Hazard and Torres), there is a lack of cover in the back. Yet, they have shown championship grit when needed and shouldn't be written off. An entertaining weekend awaits.

London Eye

By Robert Davis

Seen And Not Heard

Referees have the toughest job in football.

It's easy to blame a referee and in many cases, it's the easiest way out for some bitter football fans, perhaps not prepared to accept defeat in a match worth such high stakes.

An officials job is a thankless one. A referee that has a good game is rarely praised, yet a bad game is instantly jumped on, with the past couple of weeks being especially difficult for those officiating up and down the country.

Referees don't gett off that easily though. They can certainly bring it on themselves, whether every decision you make is highlighted with an over the top signal as if to say; "Look at me! Hey everyone look at that decision I just made!" (yes, Mike Dean, that's you), or a fellow ex-professional decides to stay in the limelight as much as possible, appearing on television or releasing a 'tell all' book (yes Jeff Winter, that's you).

A referee should never be the focal point of a game of football, yet it's understandable that sometimes it's avoidable. Everyone makes mistakes. Though it appears to be the same names that constantly reappear on the back pages.

It can be argued that they're chosen to officiate the big games in the Premier League, so by default, they are pushed into the limelight of the media because of the nature of the matches. That is not to say that a referee is completely void of any criticism though.

Mark Clattenburg has been the name in the docks recently after his performance in the Chelsea vs Manchester United match.

Accusations that he racially abused Jon Obi Mikel aside, his decisions left many watching baffled. Fernando Torres could and probably should have been sent off in the first half for a horribly high challenge on United's Tom Cleverley. Then in the the second half, wrongly gave the Spaniard a second yellow for diving.

To make matters worse, he had already sent off Branislav Ivanovic as well as later allowing a Javier Hernandez winning strike to stand with the striker in an offside position. Clattenburg made the right decision sending off Ivanovic, whilst it was up to the linseman to raise his flag for the Hernandez goal. Most of the time though, the blame will land on the man in the middle.

Mistakes are going to happen. The majority of fans accept this. Clattenburg though likes to use his position as a Premier League referee to embrace a celebrity lifestyle, something that won't endear him to anyone anytime soon.

Referee Mike Dean tries to give the bird three times over.

The styled hair and flash sports car show someone who looks to be making the most of his time in the public eye. A referee needs to be the most professional man on the pitch, not a robot, but he needs to show an element of calmness and stature. This isn't to say Clattenburg can't gel his hair or drive an expensive car because of his job, far from it. The nature of his work though will have people rightfully looking at those aspects. He signed up for it, he needs to accept what comes with it, which is a lot of judgement from all areas of the game.

That's not to get judgment confused with abuse. A small minority of football fans can take things too far and in many cases, drive officials to quit their job in fear of their own safety. Which was the case when Swedish referee Anders Frisk chose to step down after sending off Chelsea striker Didier Drogba in a Champions League match. Abuse from the stands is expected and should be taken with a pinch of salt. By the time the next game comes along, it's usually all forgotten.

Officials today seem to be more worried about being a players friend rather than giving the correct decision. Footballers and referees appear to be on first name terms, especially in the Premier League, when in actual fact, they need to take themselves away from a personal level as much as possible.

If a player is called by his number during the match, this takes away any favouritism that may look apparent to the anyone watching. It may appear impersonal or robotic, but it shows the element of professionalism that appears to be lacking.

Sponsorships on an officials apparel should be taken away, along with the idea that a referee should come out after a match to explain certain decisions. This would only put the attention on them even more than it already is. Post-match interviews are there for players and coaches, not for officials.

The Football Association's Respect campaign has taken huge strides in protecting referees. Gone are the days where ambushes and crowding a referee are a weekly occurrence, coincidently coinciding with Roy Keane's retirement in 2006. It's certainly a two way street in helping out as much as possible. If referee's shouldn't call players by their first name, neither should the players call the referee by theirs.

It's hard to imagine when football will get to a point where officials have complete respect. Perhaps it never will unless the game is run by a computer, telling us decisions in black and white, which would be a travesty (another issue all together!).

Referees should indeed be seen and not heard, yet many don't help themselves when put in charge. No game is the same and should be approached with a certain level of common sense, whether it's a local derby, or a top of the table clash.

The one thing that will never change though?

Referees have the toughest job in football.

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Wrap Italia

By Luca Cetta

Juve's Streak Broken!

Inter conquered Turin to end Juventus' 49-game unbeaten streak as Milan, Roma and Fiorentina recorded convincing wins. However, both Napoli and Lazio stumbled.

Cast your mind back to May 2011. The situation was anxious at Juventus headquarters. The Old Lady stared down the barrel of another seventh placed finish. A 2-0 defeat at the hands of Parma meant European football was unattainable for 2011-12. A follow-up 2-2 draw with Napoli signalled the end of another disappointing campaign.

A lot has since changed. Antonio Conte replaced Luigi Delneri. The Juventus Stadium replaced the Stadio Olimpico. Flowing football and steely determination replaced lacklustre performances. That season-ending draw also triggered the beginning of an unbeaten streak the likes of which had not been witnessed since Milan went 58 games unbeaten from 1991 to 1993.

After going through the whole of 2011-12 undefeated Juve kept the streak alive in the opening ten rounds this term. The 50-game barrier approached as Andrea Stramaccioni's Inter visited Turin for the Derby d'Italia.

The young Nerazzurri boss surprised by fielding a 3-4-3 formation, starting his lethal attacking trio of Diego Milito, Antonio Cassano and Rodrigo Palacio. Before they, or any teammate, could touch the ball Juve hit the front. A flowing move picked out Kwadwo Asamoah – in an offside position – and his cross was turned home by Arturo Vidal. Time? Just 18 seconds.

Juve may well have buried the contest in the opening 15 minutes on their way to number 50 but failed to take their chances. Palacio then had a goal disallowed for a much tighter offside call as Inter clawed back into the contest. Stephan Lichtsteiner was lucky to not see a second yellow for a reckless challenge. It was worthy of a card but he was hauled off in any event by Juve boss Angelo Alessio.

After the break Inter made the early running and Milito earned a soft penalty, which he converted. Fredy Guarin was introduced and made an immediate impact, robbing Pirlo before firing a shot that was turned in by Milito. The crowd was stunned. The Bianconeri pushed late on, but their worst fears were realised when Palacio converted another counter-attack to seal a famous 3-1 win. Juve lost for the first time at their new home as Inter reduced the gap at the top to one point with a sixth straight victory.

Milito says the poor refereeing decisions spurred Inter on. "We got back out for the second half with so much anger for the offside goal and the Lichtsteiner incident, which helped us put in a fantastic performance."

Earlier on Saturday, Milan recorded a resounding win over struggling Chievo. The hosts took an early lead, only for Sergio Pellissier to hit back. However, the Rossoneri overpowered Chievo to run out 5-1 winners. There was another goal for Stephan El Shaarawy, Serie A's leading scorer, who continued his rich vein of form.

Thumping home wins were the order of the weekend. Fiorentina enjoyed a 4-1 success over Cagliari, who had won their past four. The win propelled the Viola to fourth. Catania claimed a resounding 4-0 victory over an unsatisfactory Lazio. Alejandro Gomez scored twice and was involved in another in what was a fine individual performance.

Meanwhile, Roma recorded a 4-1 victory over struggling Palermo. This included a remarkable cameo for Mattia Destro. The Italian international was subbed on, given a yellow card, scored his debut Roma goal and then shown another card for removing his shirt in the celebration. All within the space of seven minutes. Yet it was harsh as the shirt only half went off.

Napoli didn't shine but were on the way to victory over Torino thanks to Edinson Cavani's early goal. Defender Salvatore Aronica was brought on as a late substitute and his only meaningful contribution was an intercepted back-pass. Gianluca Sansone accepted the gift to give Torino a well-deserved point.

The situation is bleak in the city of Genoa. Sampdoria lost for the sixth successive contest, a 2-1 home reverse to Atalanta. The only shining light a fantastic overhead goal by Enzo Maresca. Cross-town rivals Genoa slumped to their third loss under new boss Delneri as Siena claimed a 1-0 win.

As they search for an elusive win, Giovanni Stroppa saved his Pescara job. The win over Parma eased the pressure for another week at least. Finally, Antonio Di Natale was on hand to rescue a point for Udinese in a 1-1 draw at Bologna.

Calcio's eyes will focus on Rome this weekend for the Derby della Capitale. Roma's morale-boosting win will put them in good stead for this ever-passionate clash. The same cannot be said for Lazio after that crushing loss in Sicily. They will be aided by the return of Miroslav Klose from suspension, although Destro will miss his first Derby thanks to that irrational red card.

Was Milan's win the start of a resurgence or a false dawn? After a draw versus Malaga in the Champions League, they welcome Fiorentina to the Stadio Giuseppe Meazza where questions may be answered. The impressive Viola are just two points from the Champions League places.

The leading trio are all on the road. Napoli and Juventus face teams in need of a win in the form of Genoa and Pescara, while the impressive Inter travels to Atalanta. Elsewhere, the horribly out of form Palermo and Sampdoria do battle, as Cagliari and Parma look to bounce back from losses against Catania and Siena respectively. Chievo faces Udinese and Torino hosts Bologna.

Zanetti leads the chorus after Inter Milan won 3-1, and inflict upon Juventus its first defeat in 49 matches.

ITALY Serie A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Juventus	11	9	1	1	23	8	+15	28	L W W W W
2 Internazionale	11	9	0	2	22	10	+12	27	W W W W W
3 Napoli	11	7	2	2	16	7	+9	23	D L W L W
4 Fiorentina	11	6	3	2	16	8	+8	21	W W W D W
5 Lazio	11	6	1	4	16	15	+1	19	L D L W W
6 Roma	11	5	2	4	26	20	+6	17	W L L W W
7 Catania	11	4	3	4	15	16	-1	15	W D L L W
8 Atalanta	11	5	2	4	10	13	-3	15	W W D W L
9 Parma	11	4	3	4	14	16	-2	15	L W W W L
10 Udinese	11	3	5	3	14	16	-2	14	D D W W L
11 Milan	11	4	2	5	17	13	+4	14	W D W L L
12 Cagliari	11	4	2	5	11	17	-6	14	L W W W W
13 Torino	11	2	6	3	12	10	+2	11	D D L D L
14 Pescara	11	3	2	6	8	17	-9	11	W L D L L
15 Chievo	11	3	1	7	10	21	-11	10	L W L D W
16 Sampdoria	11	3	2	6	13	16	-3	10	L L L L L
17 Genoa	11	2	3	6	10	15	-5	9	L L L L D
18 Bologna	11	2	2	7	12	17	-5	8	D L L L L
19 Palermo	11	1	5	5	9	17	-8	8	L D D D D
20 Siena	11	3	3	5	12	14	-2	6	W L D L L

Latest Results	This Week
Genoa 0 - 1Fiorentina	Cagliari v Catania
Milan 5 - 1 Chievo	Pescara v Juventus
Juventus 1 - 3 Inter	Palermo v Sampdoria
Pescara 2 - 0 Parma	Chievo v Udinese
Bologna 1 - 1 Udinese	Genoa v Napoli
Catania 4 - 0 Lazio	Lazio v Romao
Fiorentina 4 - 1 Cagliari	Milan v Fiorentina
Napoli 1 - 1 Torino	Parma v Siena
Sampdoria 1 - 2 Atalanta	Torino v Bologna
Siena 1 - 0 Genoa	Atalanta v Inter
Roma 4 - 1 Palermo	

One To Watch This Weekend...

The Rome Derby should not be missed. Aside from the typical Derby incidents, it is fifth versus sixth and two attacking teams pitted against one another.

Viva Espana

By Pepe Lopez

Barca and Real Primed for Champions League Challenge

Despite only getting a draw from 2 round 1 UEFA Champions League Group D fixtures against Germany's Borussia Dortmund, Real Madrid are poised to join Group G leaders Barcelona FC in the round of 16. With Real Madrid in second place in Group D on 7 points, 1 behind group leaders Dortmund, the Spanish La Liga Champions are 3 points clear of 3rd placed Ajax, and 5 points clear of English Champions Manchester City.

Real Madrid Coach Jose Mourinho sounded out this warning to other would be UEFA Champions League hopefuls; "If we qualify, if this is the most difficult group and we end up second, then, that's a problem for the other teams that end up first in their groups. The two times that I've won the Champions League my team ended the group stage in second place. There is no drama here.

We played a great game versus Manchester City and today it's been another great game.

Far from pouring doubt on Real Madrid's Champions League hopes, Manchester United Coach Alex Ferguson also talked up the Spanish team's ability; "You can't look past Real Madrid and Barcelona, that's fair to say, and I do think Dortmund will be about the Champions League this year.

If you look at their league form, 11 points behind Bayern Munich, you can tell they're preparing themselves to do well in the Champions League. Those three teams have outstanding chances and I hope we can join them because we have a good squad of players. We'll need to perform at a really high level to win it."

Jose Mourinho's team look set for a big second half of the season.

After a slow start to their La Liga campaign, Real have now surged back up into 3rd place, and are gaining ground on their local rivals Atletico Madrid, who lost just their first game of the season, 10 rounds in. The impressive, if not surprising start to the La Liga by Atletico Madrid was just a question of when and not if, Atletico would eventually struggle to keep up with La Liga leaders Barcelona FC.

In spite of the loss, Atleti Coach Diego Simeone was satisfied with his player's efforts in a 2-0 loss away to Valencia. "They've played a great game, they've given their all and when a team gives it all they've got they can win or lose, but one leaves without their mind at peace, thinking about getting back to work and getting started again on Thursday. I felt satisfied with the players' effort. When one gives their all there's nothing to complain about."

The match was won by Valencia in controversial circumstances, Valencia's goal scorer Roberto Soldado was caught by television cameras stomping on the face of Atletico Madrid's Colombian sensation Radamel Falcao behind the play. Unfortunately the incident appeared to have affected Falcao's performance, the star player and his bleeding face, failed to find the back of the net for the first time in 12 consecutive matches.

Roberto Soldado was quoted after the match saying; "I've apologised to Falcao. He just happened to be there when I was stepping back and I caught him with my cleat. I always use plastic ones, but this time I had metal ones."

Whilst Atletico Madrid are in a good position to defend their Europa League title, being 8 points clear of the 3rd placed team in their UEFA Europa League Round 1 group, Spain are set to have a 3rd challenger behind Real Madrid and Barcelona in the Round of 16 of the UEFA Champions League.

Malaga, the team on Spain's "Costa Del Sol", qualified for the next round of the competition with a 1-1 all away draw to AC Milan, and extend their lead over the 3rd placed team in group C, Belgium's Anderlecht by 6 points.

Jose Mourinho knows only too well the path to Champions League success having previously lead Porto (2004) and Inter Mian (2010) to titles.

SPAIN La Liga

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Barcelona	10	9	1	0	32	12	+20	28	W W W D W
2 Atlético Madrid	10	8	1	1	22	11	+11	25	L W W W W
3 Real Madrid	10	6	2	2	25	7	+18	20	W W W D W
4 Real Betis	10	6	1	3	17	15	+2	19	W W D W L
5 Málaga	10	5	3	2	14	7	+7	18	L D W L W
6 Levante	10	5	2	3	12	14	-2	17	D W W W L
7 Sevilla	10	4	3	3	12	11	+1	15	D L W L L
8 Real Valladolid	10	4	2	4	15	11	+4	14	W D L D W
9 Valencia	10	4	2	4	13	12	+1	14	W L W L W
10 Getafe	10	4	1	5	12	16	-4	13	L W L W W
11 Rayo Vallecano	10	4	1	5	13	23	-10	13	W L L W L
12 Real Zaragoza	10	4	0	6	9	15	-6	12	L W W L L
13 Mallorca	10	3	2	5	10	15	-5	11	L L L L L
14 Athletic Club	10	3	2	5	14	20	-6	11	W L L W L
15 Celta de Vigo	10	3	1	6	11	14	-3	10	L D L W L
16 Real Sociedad	10	3	1	6	10	15	-5	10	L D L L W
17 Deportivo La C…	10	2	4	4	15	20	-5	10	W D L L L
18 Espanyol	10	2	3	5	12	15	-3	9	W D W D L
19 Granada	10	2	2	6	9	17	-8	8	L L L W W
20 Osasuna	10	1	2	7	8	15	-7	5	L L D L W

Latest Results	This Week
Málaga 1 - 2 Rayo Vallecano	Real Betis v Granada
Barcelona 3 - 1 Celta Vigo	Rayo Vallecano v Celta Vigo
Real Madrid 4 - 0 R Zaragoza	Espanyol v Osasuna
Valencia 2 - 0 Atlético Madrid	R Zaragoza v Deportivo
R Sociedad 0 - 1 Espanyol	Málaga v R Sociedad
Deportivo 1 - 0 Mallorca	Real Valladolid v Valencia
Osasuna 0 - 1 R Valladolid	Athletic Club v Sevilla
Granada 1 - 2 Athletic Club	Mallorca v Barcelona
Sevilla 0 - 0 Levante	Atlético Madrid v Getafe
Getafe 2 - 4 Real Betis	Levante v Real Madrid

One To Watch This Weekend...

Expect the top three to take maximum points and extend a breakaway lead from the chasing pack.

CROATIA 1.HNL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Dinamo Zagreb	14	11	2	1	33	12	+21	35	W W W W W
2 Hajduk Split	14	7	3	4	24	13	+11	24	W W L W L
3 Rijeka	14	7	3	4	21	18	+3	24	W W L W L
4 Slaven Koprivnica	14	7	3	4	24	22	+2	24	D D W L D
5 Lokomotiva	14	6	4	4	21	18	+3	22	W L D W D
6 Osijek	14	5	6	3	17	11	+6	21	L L W D W
7 Split	14	6	3	5	22	18	+4	21	D L W D D
8 Istra 1961	14	4	4	6	11	15	-4	16	L D W L L
9 Inter Zaprešic	14	3	6	5	17	19	-2	15	D W L D D
10 Cibalia	14	3	3	8	12	21	-9	12	D L L L W
11 Zagreb	14	2	3	9	8	27	-19	9	L W D D L
12 Zadar	14	1	4	9	13	29	-16	7	L L L L W

TURKEY Süper Lig

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Galatasaray	10	6	3	1	25	13	+12	21	W W D D L
2 Antalyaspor	10	7	0	3	19	12	+7	21	W W W W W
3 Eskişehirspor	10	5	2	3	21	13	+8	17	W D W D W
4 Orduspor	10	4	5	1	14	10	+4	17	W L D D W
5 Kasımpaşa	10	5	1	4	16	11	+5	16	W L D L W
6 Fenerbahçe	10	4	4	2	13	9	+4	16	W L D W L
7 Beşiktaş	10	4	3	3	19	13	+6	15	W W D L L
8 Gençlerbirliği	10	3	5	2	17	12	+5	14	L D D W W
9 Bursaspor	10	3	4	3	14	12	+2	13	L W D D D
10 Trabzonspor	10	3	4	3	8	7	+1	13	L L D W D
11 Sivasspor	10	3	3	4	11	14	-3	12	L L L D W
12 İstanbul BB	10	3	2	5	9	11	-2	11	L L W L L
13 Gaziantepspor	10	3	2	5	8	15	-7	11	L W D L D
14 Kayserispor	10	3	1	6	11	19	-8	10	W L L W L
15 Akhisar Beledi…	10	2	4	4	6	14	-8	10	L W D D L
16 Karabükspor	10	2	3	5	10	20	-10	9	L D L D W
17 Mersin İdmanyurdu	10	1	5	4	12	17	-5	8	L W D L D
18 Elazığspor	10	1	5	4	7	18	-11	8	W D D D L

SERBIA Super Liga

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Partizan	11	10	0	1	35	7	+28	30	W W W W W
2 Crvena Zvezda	11	8	1	2	26	15	+11	25	L W W L W
3 Jagodina	11	7	2	2	12	6	+6	23	W W D W L
4 Rad Beograd	11	5	3	3	14	9	+5	18	D L L L W
5 Vojvodina	11	4	6	1	8	7	+1	18	D W D D L
6 Spartak Subotica	11	5	2	4	16	12	+4	17	W W W W D
7 Sloboda Užice	11	4	4	3	15	18	-3	16	D W D D W
8 Novi Pazar	11	3	5	3	15	13	+2	14	D L D L W
9 Donji Srem	11	4	2	5	10	13	-3	14	W L L D L
10 Javor Ivanjica	11	4	1	6	15	11	+4	13	W L D L L
11 Radnički Niš	11	3	3	5	13	23	-10	12	L L D D W
12 Radnički 1923 …	11	2	5	4	11	16	-5	11	W L W L D
13 BSK Borča	11	3	1	7	11	28	-17	10	L D L W L
14 OFK Beograd	11	2	3	6	13	16	-3	9	L W D W L
15 Hajduk Kula	11	1	3	7	8	16	-8	6	L L D W L
16 Smederevo	11	0	5	6	5	17	-12	5	L D L L L

GERMANY Bundesliga

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Bayern München	10	9	0	1	30	4	+26	27	W L W W W
2 Schalke 04	10	6	2	2	20	11	+9	20	L W W W D
3 Eintracht Fran…	10	6	2	2	21	14	+7	20	D L W L W
4 Bayer Leverkusen	10	5	3	2	18	14	+4	18	W W D D W
5 Borussia Dortmund	10	4	4	2	20	11	+9	16	D W L D W
6 Hannover 96	10	4	2	4	20	16	+4	14	W L L D L
7 Werder Bremen	10	4	2	4	17	15	+2	14	W D W L L
8 Mainz 05	10	4	2	4	13	12	+1	14	L W D W W
9 Hamburger SV	10	4	1	5	11	14	-3	13	L W L W W
10 Stuttgart	10	3	4	3	10	15	-5	13	D W W D W
11 Borussia M'gla…	10	3	4	3	13	19	-6	13	D W L W L
12 Freiburg	10	3	3	4	14	13	+1	12	D L W W L
13 Hoffenheim	10	3	2	5	16	22	-6	11	W L D L D
14 Nürnberg	10	3	2	5	8	15	-7	11	W L D L L
15 Fortuna Düsseldorf	10	2	4	4	9	15	-6	10	L L L L D
16 Wolfsburg	10	2	2	6	6	17	-11	8	L W L L L
17 Greuther Fürth	10	1	4	5	7	16	-9	7	D D D L L
18 Augsburg	10	1	3	6	5	15	-10	6	L L D W D

HOLLAND Eredivisie

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Twente	11	9	1	1	24	6	+18	28	W W D W L
2 PSV	11	9	0	2	37	9	+28	27	W W W W W
3 Vitesse	11	7	3	1	21	9	+12	24	W L W D W
4 Utrecht	11	6	3	2	17	9	+8	21	W W W D L
5 Ajax	11	4	6	1	25	14	+11	18	L D D D W
6 Feyenoord	11	5	3	3	18	16	+2	18	L D W D W
7 NEC	11	4	4	3	16	18	-2	16	W D W D L
8 ADO Den Haag	11	3	6	2	19	15	+4	15	D W L D D
9 Heracles	11	3	5	3	22	22	+0	14	L W D W D
10 Heerenveen	11	3	4	4	17	19	-2	13	W L W D W
11 AZ	11	3	3	5	17	21	-4	12	L W L L D
12 Groningen	11	3	2	6	12	22	-10	11	L L L D W
13 NAC Breda	11	3	2	6	11	22	-11	11	W W L L L
14 RKC Waalwijk	11	2	4	5	13	17	-4	10	L L L L D
15 Roda JC	11	2	4	5	10	16	-6	10	D D D W L
16 PEC Zwolle	11	2	2	7	8	19	-11	8	L L W L W
17 Willem II	11	1	3	7	8	24	-16	6	L L L W L
18 VVV	11	1	3	7	12	29	-17	6	W L L L L

SCOTLAND SPL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Celtic	11	6	3	2	21	11	+10	21	D L W W W
2 Hibernian	12	6	3	3	23	16	+7	21	W W L W L
3 Inverness CT	12	4	6	2	25	20	+5	18	W D W W W
4 Aberdeen	12	4	6	2	15	11	+4	18	L W D W W
5 St. Johnstone	12	5	3	4	15	16	-1	18	L D W W W
6 Motherwell	11	4	4	3	16	16	+0	16	W L L L D
7 Kilmarnock	12	4	3	5	17	15	+2	15	L W L L W
8 Ross County	12	3	6	3	15	16	-1	15	W D W L L
9 Heart of Midlo…	12	3	4	5	12	13	-1	13	L D W L L
10 Dundee United	10	3	4	3	11	13	-2	13	D W D L L
11 St. Mirren	12	3	3	6	16	22	-6	12	L L L L W
12 Dundee	12	2	1	9	5	22	-17	7	W L L L L

THE CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Crystal Palace	15	9	3	3	30	21	+9	30	WWWDD
2 Middlesbrough	15	9	2	4	25	19	+6	29	DWWWW
3 Cardiff City	15	9	1	5	31	22	+9	28	LLWWL
4 Hull City	15	9	1	5	23	19	+4	28	WWWLW
5 Leicester City	15	8	2	5	21	14	+7	26	DLLWD
6 Blackburn Rovers	15	6	6	3	21	18	+3	24	DLWWD
7 Huddersfield Town	15	7	3	5	21	21	+0	24	DWLLW
8 Brighton	15	6	5	4	19	11	+8	23	WDDLL
9 Derby County	15	6	5	4	24	19	+5	23	WWLWD
10 Burnley	15	7	2	6	29	29	+0	23	WWLWW
11 Nottingham Forest	15	5	7	3	21	18	+3	22	DLWDW
12 Blackpool	15	6	3	6	25	22	+3	21	WLDDL
13 Wolverhampton	15	6	3	6	19	18	+1	21	LLDDL
14 Millwall	15	5	5	5	27	25	+2	20	DWWDD
15 Leeds United	15	5	5	5	22	22	+0	20	LDLDD
16 Watford	15	6	2	7	19	22	-3	20	DWLLW
17 Bolton Wanderers	15	5	4	6	21	23	-2	19	DWLDW
18 Birmingham City	15	5	4	6	17	22	-5	19	WLWDD
19 Charlton Athletic	15	4	5	6	20	23	-3	17	WLDDL
20 Sheffield Wed	15	4	3	8	20	26	-6	15	LWWLD
21 Barnsley	15	4	3	8	15	23	-8	15	LLLDW
22 Peterborough Utd	15	4	0	11	17	23	-6	12	LLWWL
23 Bristol City	15	3	2	10	24	31	-7	11	LLLLL
24 Ipswich Town	15	2	4	9	11	31	-20	10	LWLLL

LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Sheffield United	16	8	8	0	19	10	+9	32	D W W W D
2 Stevenage	16	9	5	2	23	17	+6	32	W L W W L
3 Tranmere Rovers	15	9	4	2	32	14	+18	31	D L L W W
4 Crawley Town	16	9	2	5	24	22	+2	29	L D W W W
5 Notts County	16	8	4	4	28	17	+11	28	W L D W W
6 Doncaster Rovers	15	8	3	4	20	14	+6	27	L W W W D
7 Swindon Town	16	7	5	4	23	14	+9	26	D W L D D
8 Brentford	16	6	7	3	22	17	+5	25	W D W L D
9 Milton Keynes Dons	15	6	5	4	18	11	+7	23	W L L D D
10 Preston North End	16	6	5	5	26	20	+6	23	D D W L D
11 Yeovil Town	16	7	1	8	26	24	+2	22	L W W W L
12 AFC Bournemouth	16	5	6	5	26	28	-2	21	W W D W W
13 Colchester United	16	5	5	6	17	20	-3	20	L D W W W
14 Crewe Alexandra	16	5	5	6	16	21	-5	20	W L W D L
15 Carlisle United	16	5	5	6	20	28	-8	20	D L W L D
16 Walsall	16	5	4	7	19	25	-6	19	L D L D L
17 Portsmouth	16	5	3	8	22	24	-2	18	L L L W W
18 Oldham Athletic	15	4	5	6	16	17	-1	17	L D L W D
19 Coventry City	16	4	5	7	18	23	-5	17	W W L L D
20 Leyton Orient	15	5	1	9	11	18	-7	16	L L L W L
21 Shrewsbury Town	16	3	5	8	17	22	-5	14	L D L L W
22 Scunthorpe United	16	3	4	9	15	28	-13	13	W L L D D
23 Bury	16	2	6	8	17	28	-11	12	W D W L D
24 Hartlepool United	15	1	5	9	13	26	-13	8	D L L L D

LEAGUE TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Gillingham	16	11	3	2	30	10	+20	36	D W L W W
2 Port Vale	16	9	4	3	35	18	+17	31	D L D W W
3 Cheltenham Town	16	8	5	3	22	17	+5	29	D W W L W
4 Fleetwood Town	16	7	6	3	22	14	+8	27	D D W D L
5 Rotherham United	15	7	4	4	24	18	+6	25	D W W W L
6 Bradford City	16	7	4	5	24	18	+6	25	D L W W D
7 Torquay United	16	6	6	4	23	19	+4	24	L W W L W
8 Rochdale	16	6	6	4	23	21	+2	24	D D W L L
9 Burton Albion	15	6	5	4	23	20	+3	23	W D L D D
10 York City	16	5	8	3	21	19	+2	23	D D W W D
11 Exeter City	16	7	2	7	23	24	-1	23	W L D L L
12 Southend United	16	6	4	6	22	19	+3	22	W D L L W
13 Accrington Stanley	15	6	3	6	18	22	-4	21	D W L L L
14 Northampton Town	16	5	5	6	21	22	-1	20	D W L L W
15 Dagenham & Red	16	4	7	5	23	24	-1	19	W D D L W
16 Chesterfield	16	4	7	5	17	18	-1	19	D L L W L
17 Morecambe	16	5	4	7	18	21	-3	19	D L L W W
18 Oxford United	16	6	1	9	24	30	-6	19	L W L W L
19 Plymouth Argyle	15	4	5	6	20	21	-1	17	L L W W L
20 Bristol Rovers	15	3	5	7	16	26	-10	14	L L L W D
21 AFC Wimbledon	16	4	2	10	18	31	-13	14	L L W D L
22 Wycombe W	15	3	4	8	13	23	-10	13	D L D L W
23 Barnet	16	3	4	9	14	26	-12	13	W W D W L
24 Aldershot Town	16	3	4	9	12	25	-13	13	D D W L L

Greece Super League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Olympiakos Piraeus	9	8	1	0	22	5	+17	25	W D W W W
2 PAOK	9	6	2	1	14	5	+9	20	W D W D W
3 Panionios	9	6	0	3	10	9	+1	18	L W L W W
4 Asteras Tripolis	9	5	2	2	12	4	+8	17	W D W L D
5 Atromitos	9	3	5	1	8	5	+3	14	W D D D L
6 Platanias	9	3	3	3	10	8	+2	12	D L L W W
7 Panathinaikos	9	3	5	1	9	7	+2	12	W D D W D
8 Aris	9	2	4	3	8	12	-4	10	W D D L L
9 Kerkyra	9	2	4	3	6	10	-4	10	D D W D W
10 OFI	9	2	4	3	9	11	-2	10	L D W D L
11 Veria	9	2	3	4	6	10	-4	9	L D L D W
12 Xanthi	9	2	3	4	6	13	-7	9	W D L L L
13 PAS Giannina	9	2	3	4	7	8	-1	9	L D W L W
14 Panthrakikos	9	2	0	7	7	15	-8	6	L L L W L
15 Levadiakos	9	1	3	5	3	10	-7	6	L D D L L
16 AEK Athens	9	1	2	6	4	9	-5	5	L W L D L

France Ligue 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 PSG	11	6	4	1	17	7	+10	22	L W W D W
2 Olympique Mars…	10	7	1	2	14	8	+6	22	W L D L W
3 Olympique Lyonnais	10	6	3	1	19	10	+9	21	W W D L D
4 Toulouse	11	5	4	2	18	11	+7	19	L W W D W
5 Valenciennes	11	5	3	3	23	12	+11	18	W L W D W
6 Saint-Étienne	11	5	3	3	19	8	+11	18	W W D W D
7 Bordeaux	11	4	6	1	13	10	+3	18	W L D D W
8 Lille	11	4	5	2	15	12	+3	17	W W D W L
9 Rennes	11	5	1	5	13	14	-1	16	W L W W W
10 Reims	11	4	3	4	12	9	+3	15	L D L W D
11 Lorient	11	3	6	2	19	21	-2	15	L D L D D
12 Bastia	11	4	2	5	17	26	-9	14	L W D W D
13 Brest	11	4	1	6	11	17	-6	13	W L L D L
14 Montpellier	11	3	3	5	16	16	+0	12	D W L L W
15 Nice	11	2	6	3	15	17	-2	12	W L D L D
16 Ajaccio	11	3	4	4	10	15	-5	11	L D D L W
17 Evian TG	10	2	2	6	10	17	-7	8	L L W D L
18 Sochaux	10	2	1	7	9	17	-8	7	L D L L W
19 Troyes	11	1	4	6	11	20	-9	7	D D W L L
20 Nancy	11	1	2	8	4	18	-14	5	L L D L L

Portugal Premeira Liga

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Porto	8	6	2	0	22	5	+17	20	W W W D W
2 Benfica	8	6	2	0	22	6	+16	20	W W W W D
3 Sporting Braga	8	5	2	1	20	11	+9	17	W W D W W
4 Rio Ave	8	4	2	2	10	9	+1	14	W W W D L
5 Paços de Ferreira	8	2	5	1	10	7	+3	11	D W D L D
6 Vitória Guimarães	8	3	2	3	7	13	-6	11	L W W L W
7 Vitória Setúbal	8	2	4	2	7	11	-4	10	W L D D W
8 Estoril	8	2	3	3	13	13	+0	9	W L L D W
9 Gil Vicente	8	2	3	3	7	11	-4	9	L L W W L
10 Académica	8	1	5	2	9	10	-1	8	L D L W D
11 Marítimo	8	2	2	4	4	13	-9	8	L L W L L
12 Olhanense	8	1	4	3	12	14	-2	7	D D D L L
13 Sporting CP	8	1	4	3	6	9	-3	7	L D L D W
14 Moreirense	8	1	3	4	10	12	-2	6	L D L L L
15 Beira-Mar	8	1	3	4	11	18	-7	6	W L L D L
16 Nacional	8	1	2	5	11	19	-8	5	L L L W D

One Game At A Time

France
Sochaux v Evian TG
Nancy v Rennes
Lille v Brest
Saint-Étienne v Troyes
Bastia v Valenciennes
Reims v Evian TG
Toulouse v Ajaccio
Olympique Mars… v Nice
Lorient v Bordeaux
Sochaux v Olympique Lyonnais
Montpellier v PSG

Germany
Mainz 05 v Nürnberg
Bayern München v Eintracht Fran…
Schalke 04 v Werder Bremen
Freiburg v Hamburger SV
Augsburg v Borussia Dortmund
Fortuna Düsseldorf v Hoffenheim
Wolfsburg v Bayer Leverkusen
Stuttgart v Hannover 96
Greuther Fürth v Borussia M'gla…

Croatia
Zagreb v Hajduk Split
Osijek v Inter Zaprešic
Zadar v Slaven Koprivnica
Istra 1961 v Cibalia
Split v Dinamo Zagreb
Lokomotiva v Rijeka

Serbia
Hajduk Kula v BSK Borča
Jagodina v Smederevo
Sloboda Užice v Radnički Niš
Vojvodina v Novi Pazar
Javor Ivanjica v Rad Beograd
OFK Beograd v Crvena Zvezda
Donji Srem v Spartak Subotica
Partizan v Radnički 1923 …

English Championship
Middlesbrough v Sheffield Wedn…
Leicester City v Nottingham Forest
Blackpool v Bolton Wanderers
Blackburn Rovers v Birmingham City
Ipswich Town v Burnley
Cardiff City v Hull City
Barnsley v Huddersfield Town
Peterborough U… v Crystal Palace
Wolverhampton … v Brighton & Hov…
Leeds United v Watford
Millwall v Derby County
Bristol City v Charlton Athletic

English League One
Hartlepool United v Tranmere Rovers
Milton Keynes Dons v Leyton Orient
Notts County v Crawley Town
Oldham Athletic v Tranmere Rovers
Leyton Orient v Shrewsbury Town
Coventry City v Scunthorpe United
Crewe Alexandra v Colchester United
Walsall v Swindon Town
Milton Keynes Dons v Sheffield United
Stevenage v Preston North End
Bury v Portsmouth
Yeovil Town v Hartlepool United

English League Two
Accrington Stanley v Northampton Town
Dagenham & Red… v Rotherham United
Southend United v Port Vale
Plymouth Argyle v Gillingham
Aldershot Town v Bradford City
Exeter City v Fleetwood Town
York City v AFC Wimbledon
Cheltenham Town v Burton Albion
Oxford United v Torquay United
Wycombe Wanderers v Rochdale
Bristol Rovers v Chesterfield
Morecambe v Barnet

Scotland
Inverness CT v Heart of Midlo…
Kilmarnock v Ross County
St. Mirren v Aberdeen
Motherwell v Dundee
Hibernian v Dundee United
Celtic v St. Johnstone

Greece
OFI v Veria
PAS Giannina v Xanthi
Levadiakos v Aris
Panthrakikos v Asteras Tripolis
Atromitos v Panionios
PAOK v Platanias
AEK Athens v Olympiakos Piraeus
Kerkyra v Panathinaikos

Turkey
Sivasspor v Eskişehirspor
Beşiktaş v Bursaspor
Kasımpaşa v Antalyaspor
Trabzonspor v Akhisar Beledi…
Karabükspor v İstanbul BB
Gaziantepspor v Gençlerbirliği
Mersin İdmanyurdu v Galatasaray
Elazığspor v Kayserispor
Fenerbahçe v Orduspor

Holland
NAC Breda v Groningen
RKC Waalwijk v Utrecht
VVV v Willem II
ADO Den Haag v AZ
NEC v Heracles
Vitesse v Twente
Feyenoord v Roda JC
PEC Zwolle v Ajax
PSV v Heerenveen

Portugal
Gil Vicente v Paços de Ferreira
Vitória Guimarães v Nacional
Estoril v Moreirense
Olhanense v Beira-Mar
Porto v Académica
Rio Ave v Benfica
Sporting CP v Sporting Braga
Marítimo v Vitória Setúbal

...Results...Results....Results.....Results....Results....Results...Results...Results...Results...Results...Results...

THE CHAMPIONSHIP
Birmingham City 2 - 0 Bristol City
Watford 0 - 0 Millwall
Hull City 2 - 1 Wolverhampton …
Sheffield Wedn… 0 - 2 Blackpool
Brighton & Hov… 1 - 0 Peterborough U…
Burnley 1 - 0 Leeds United
Huddersfield Town 2 - 2 Blackburn Rovers
Derby County 2 - 0 Barnsley
Nottingham Forest 0 - 0 Middlesbrough
Charlton Athletic 5 - 4 Cardiff City
Bolton Wanderers 0 - 0 Leicester City
Crystal Palace 5 - 0 Ipswich Town

ENGLISH LEAGUE ONE
Portsmouth 0 - 1 Brentford
Yeovil Town 1 - 3 Stevenage
Preston North End 1 - 1 Carlisle United
AFC Bournemouth 2 - 1 Shrewsbury Town
Oldham Athletic 1 - 2 Bury
Coventry City 3 - 1 Crawley Town
Walsall 1 - 4 Scunthorpe United
Colchester United 0 - 2 Notts County
Doncaster Rovers 0 - 2 Crewe Alexandra
Swindon Town 0 - 0 Sheffield United
Hartlepool United v Tranmere Rovers

ENGLISH LEAGUE TWO
Aldershot Town 0 - 0 Wycombe Wanderers
Gillingham 0 - 0 Cheltenham Town
Bradford City 0 - 0 Chesterfield
York City 1 - 1 Northampton Town
Exeter City 2 - 0 AFC Wimbledon
Bristol Rovers 2 - 3 Southend United
Oxford United 2 - 3 Dagenham & Red…
Morecambe 0 - 0 Accrington Stanley
Fleetwood Town 1 - 1 Rotherham United
Port Vale 2 - 2 Rochdale
Barnet 1 - 0 Torquay United

CROATIA
Cibalia 0 - 1 Dinamo Zagreb
Zadar 2 - 4 Rijeka
Split 0 - 1 Hajduk Split
Dinamo Zagreb 3 - 1 Istra 1961
Inter Zaprešic 0 - 0 Cibalia
Slaven Koprivnica 2 - 2 Split
Rijeka 1 - 0 Zagreb
Hajduk Split 3 - 0 Zadar
Osijek 1 - 2 Lokomotiva

FRANCE
Brest 2 - 0 Lorient
PSG 1 - 2 Saint-Étienne
Troyes 1 - 1 Montpellier
Evian TG 0 - 2 Lille
Nice 2 - 1 Nancy
Rennes 1 - 0 Reims
Valenciennes 3 - 1 Sochaux
Ajaccio 0 - 2 Olympique Mars…
Olympique Lyonnais 5 - 2 Bastia
Bordeaux 1 - 0 Toulouse

GERMANY
Eintracht Fran… 1 - 1 Greuther Fürth
Borussia Dortmund 0 - 0 Stuttgart
Borussia M'gla… 1 - 1 Freiburg
Hannover 96 2 - 0 Augsburg
Nürnberg 1 - 0 Wolfsburg
Hoffenheim 3 - 2 Schalke 04
Hamburger SV 0 - 3 Bayern München
Bayer Leverkusen 3 - 2 Fortuna Düsseldorf
Werder Bremen 2 - 1 Mainz 05

GREECE
Atromitos 2 - 1 Panthrakikos
Platanias 1 - 1 Kerkyra
Olympiakos Piraeus 2 - 0 OFI
Xanthi 1 - 0 Levadiakos
Asteras Tripolis 2 - 0 PAS Giannina
Panionios 1 - 2 PAOK
Panathinaikos 1 - 0 AEK Athens
Aris 2 - 1 Veria

HOLLAND
Roda JC 0 - 0 ADO Den Haag
Ajax 0 - 2 Vitesse
Willem II 1 - 5 Utrecht
PSV 4 - 0 Heracles
Groningen 1 - 2 NEC
AZ 1 - 2 VVV
Heerenveen 2 - 1 PEC Zwolle
Twente 3 - 0 Feyenoord
NAC Breda 2 - 1 RKC Waalwijk

PORTUGAL
Porto 5 - 0 Marítimo
Sporting Braga 3 - 1 Gil Vicente
Benfica 3 - 0 Vitória Guimarães
Paços de Ferreira 0 - 0 Olhanense
Moreirense 0 - 1 Rio Ave
Nacional 2 - 4 Beira-Mar
Académica 0 - 2 Estoril
Vitória Setúbal 2 - 1 Sporting CP

SCOTLAND
Hibernian 2 - 1 St. Mirren
Kilmarnock 1 - 2 Inverness CT
Ross County 2 - 1 Aberdeen
St. Johnstone 1 - 3 Motherwell
Dundee 1 - 0 Heart of Midlo…
Dundee United 2 - 2 Celtic

SERBIA
Javor Ivanjica 2 - 1 Hajduk Kula
Novi Pazar 2 - 2 Sloboda Užice
Radnički Niš 0 - 4 Partizan
Radnički 1923 … 3 - 2 OFK Beograd
Smederevo 0 - 1 Donji Srem
Spartak Subotica 2 - 1 BSK Borča
Crvena Zvezda 1 - 2 Jagodina
Rad Beograd 1 - 1 Vojvodina

TURKEY
İstanbul BB 1 - 3 Galatasaray
Kayserispor 3 - 0 Karabükspor
Akhisar Beledi… 1 - 2 Fenerbahçe
Eskişehirspor 4 - 0 Gaziantepspor
Gençlerbirliği 1 - 2 Elazığspor
Beşiktaş 3 - 0 Mersin İdmanyurdu
Orduspor 2 - 0 Sivasspor
Antalyaspor 2 - 1 Trabzonspor
Bursaspor 1 - 2 Kasımpaşa

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